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CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 November Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Syria's Al-Shar', Iraq's 'Aziz To Meet 'Soon' *[QNA]* 3
Bendjedid's Talks at Arab Summit Detailed *[Algiers EL MOUDJAHID 9 Nov]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

PNC Speaker Urges International Conference *[MENA]* 4
Abu Sharif Named 'Arafat's Press Adviser *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 17 Nov]* 4

OPEC Affairs

'Likely Consensus' Expected at Next Meeting *[Vienna OPECNA]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Iranian Delegation Briefs Algerian Official *[IRNA]* 6
Bendjedid Meets French Socialist Party Head 6
President Receives Saudi Oil Minister 6
Ministers Receive Libyan Education Secretary 6

Chad

FANT Chief on Supply Needs, Libyan Losses *[Paris LE FIGARO 16 Nov]* 6
U.S. 'Clarifications' on Stingers Backed 7
Nation To Suffer 'Huge' 1987 Food Deficit *[Kinshasa AZAP]* 7

Egypt

Restoration of Diplomatic Relations Discussed 8
State Foreign Minister Comments 8
Ambassador-Designate Interviewed *[KUNA]* 8
'Revolution Nasirite Organization' Studied *[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI 16 Nov]* 8
Prosecution's Findings in Assassination Cases 9
President Mubarak Departs for Amman 19 Nov 9
Jordanian Minister on Mubarak Meeting 10
Transport Agreement Signed 10
Departs 19 Nov 10
Ghali Cites PRC Officials on U.S., Gulf *[AL-MUSAWWAR 13 Nov]* 10
New Wafd Party Leader Views Mubarak Regime *[AL-WAFD 15 Nov]* 12

Libya

Rallies Protest Arabs Resuming Egyptian Ties 16
'False' U.S. Statements on Missiles in Chad 16

Mauritania

BBC Reports Start of Coup Plotters' Trial 17

Morocco

King Receives Cable From Egypt's Mubarak 17
Military Communique on Polisario Attack 17

Sudan

Al-Mirghani on Constitutional Conference *[Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B 16 Nov]* 18
Ba'th Leader Condemns Attack on Kurmuk 18
Samuel Aru Issues Statement on Peace Talks 18
Education Minister Criticizes Teachers Strike 19
Garang Forms S. Funj Administrative Body *[Radio SPLA]* 19
Technical Committees With Libya Announced 19

Tunisia

Mestiri on Resumption of Ties with Egypt *[AFP]* 19
Party Central Committee To Meet 5-6 Dec 20
President Chairs 'Working Session' 17 Nov 20
Baccouche Talks With World Bank Officials 20
Saudi Envoy on 'Bright' Bilateral Relations *[SPA]* 20
Former Officials on Prospects for Return *[KUNA]* 20

Western Sahara

Liberation Army Attacks Moroccan Walls *[Algiers]* 21
Details of 18 Nov Attacks *[Algiers]* 21

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Foreign Minister on Summit, Egypt, Gulf War *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 22
Mauritanian Minister on Bilateral, Arab Ties 23

PDRY

Al-Dali Pledges No Political Ties With Egypt *[IRNA]* 23
YAR Minister Arrives for Cooperation Talks 24

IRAQ

Reportage on Visit by FRG's Genscher 25
Arrives in Baghdad 18 Nov 25
DPA Report on Arrival 25
Begins 'Official Talks' 25
UN Resolution Discussed *[DPA]* 25
Holds 2d Round of Talks 25
Received by Saddam Husayn 26
'Aziz on Resolution 598, Ties With Syria *[WAKH]* 26
UN Told of Shelling of Residential Areas 27
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations 27
Fighting in North Denied 27
Press Visits Al-Sulaymaniyah 27
Iranian Plane Hits Hospital 27
Aircraft Attack Hawk Battery 28
Downing of Plane Denied 28

'Large Maritime Target' Hit 28
Downing of 2 Planes Denied 28
Iranian F-5 Shot Down 29
2d Iranian F-5 Downed 29
2 'Maritime Targets' Attacked 29

ISRAEL

Peres Said Initiator of Minisummit Proposal 30
Peres Pledges No Compromise With Khomeyni *[THE JERUSALEM POST 18 Nov]* 30
Beilin Comments on Peace Process, Irangate 30
Shahal Reveals Implications of Amman Summit *['AL HAMISHMAR 17 Nov]* 32
Khalil Urges International Conference 32
Peres Departs on Official Visit to West Europe 32
Hungarian Economic Delegation Arrives 14 Nov *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 15 Nov]* 33
IDF Voices Reservations on Arrow SDI Project *[DAVAR 17 Nov]* 33
U.S. Palestinian Activist Ordered To Leave *[THE JERUSALEM POST 18 Nov]* 33
Mozambique 'Not Natural Candidate' for Ties *['AL HAMISHMAR 16 Nov]* 33
AL-SHA'B Editor Confined Under Town Arrest *[AL-SHA'B 14 Nov]* 34
Communist MK's on PLO Demand To End Terrorism *[THE JERUSALEM POST 18 Nov]* 34

JORDAN

Mubarak Arrives on 'Working Visit' 19 Nov 35
Meets With Husayn 35
Husayn Comments on Coordination With PLO *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 17 Nov]* 35

LEBANON

Junblatt, Qansuh Leave for Damascus 18 Nov *[VOL]* 36
Iranian Envoy Meets Al-Huss, Cuban Counterpart *[IRNA]* 36
Gulf State Opposition Groups To Meet in Beirut *[AL-SHIRA' 16 Nov]* 36
Airport Bomb Carrier Had Hizballah Ties *[VOL]* 36
Ba'th Organization on Reasons To Leave ULF *[AL-NAHAR 18 Nov]* 36
Palestinian-Nasirite Agreement Reached 18 Nov *[VOL]* 37
Amal's Hamiyah Examines Security Issues *[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL DUWALI 16 Nov]* 37
Views Reasons for Resignation *[AL-SHIRA' 16 Nov]* 40

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Foreign Minister's Statement to UN Session 41
Gulabzoy Speaks to Konduz Defense Council 44

Bangladesh

Ershad on 'United Resistance' Against Anarchy 44
Government Denies Attacks on Indian Property 44

India

Iranian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks 45
Meets Indian President *[IRNA]* 45
Confers With Faliero *[IRNA]* 45
Discusses Issues With Gandhi 46
Ends Visit, Departs *[IRNA]* 46
PRC's Liu Shuqing Meets Prime Minister Gandhi 46
Gandhi on Nuclear Nonproliferation Policy 46
Bhopal Strike Against Gas Leak Case Settlement 46
No Out-of-Court Settlement 46

Police, Demonstrators Clash in Kashmir 47
Armed Terrorists Kill Five in Punjab 47

Iran

Mass Demonstrations Support War Council Call 47
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks to Marchers 47
Musavi Describes Public Support for War Effort 48
Pakistani Clergymen Back War Council Directive 48
Musavi Assails U.S. Gulf Presence, Arab Summit 49
UN Envoy: Nation Will Not Play Into U.S. Hands 49
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Confers With Envoy to Syria 49
Commentary Terms Egypt 'Vassal of Zionists' 50
Tehran: DRA-Paid Assassins Arrested 50
Reportage on Bushehr Nuclear Plant Bombings 50
3d Bombing Announced 50
IAEA Assistance Sought *[AFP]* 50
AEO Head Warns of Radioactivity 51
Bushehr Attack Protested 51
Condolences Conveyed to FRG 51
Further Combat Operations Against Iraq 51
Communique No 3,024 51
Iraqi Warplane Shot Down 52
Kurds Carry Out Ambush Operations 52
'Aqrah Garrison Bombed 52
Hospital Bombing Denied 52
Reprisal Bombing Raids Announced 52
Majlis Elections To Be Held 8 April 53

Sri Lanka

LTTE Releases 9 Captured Indian Soldiers 53
LTTE Mounts Attacks in Trincomalee Area 53
2 Killed in Bombing Near Colombo 19 Nov 54
7 'Hardcore' JVP Members Arrested 18 Nov 54
Ruling Party Expels 2 Parliament Members *[AFP]* 54
TULF Rejects Government Proposals *[Delhi PATRIOT 2 Nov]* 54

19 November Middle East and South Asia Review

LD191417 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq War

Military Developments—Iraqi aircraft carried out another raid on the Bushehr atomic power station 19 November, causing "some damage" but no casualties, Tehran radio reported.

Iraq's raid on Bushehr, the third in the last 3 days, followed its accusation that an Iranian aircraft bombed a hospital in the northern Iraqi city of Dahuk 18 November. A communique broadcast by Baghdad radio stated that 9 patients were killed and 64 injured in the raid. It urged world public opinion to condemn "this ugly crime" and warned that Iraq knows how to punish the Iranian "criminals." The communique also announced that Iraqi warplanes carried out a "successful" raid on an Iranian Hawk missile east of Bakhtaran. Iraqi aircraft raided a large maritime target near the Iranian coast later the same day, and launched "devastating raids" on two more maritime targets 19 November, according to military statements cited by Voice of the Masses radio.

For Iran's part, a military spokesman denied Iraq's claim that Iran had attacked a hospital in Dahuk, stressing that Iranian planes carried out no mission over Dahuk 18 November, according to IRNA. The spokesman added that Iranian air raids that day targeted Iraqi troop concentrations and military installations in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, which is southeast of Dahuk. Iranian planes struck again the following morning, hitting military targets at 'Aqrah, near Dahuk, and in the Al-Sharhani area, according to an announcement broadcast by Tehran radio. IRNA said the attack on 'Aqrah was in retaliation for the wounding of three Iranian civilians in an Iraqi raid on a village in Bakhtaran Province the previous day. Iraqi spokesmen cited by INA announced that two Iranian F-5 aircraft were downed in the 19 November raids on Iraq, one in the north and the other in the IV Army Corps sector. The Iraqi agency also reported a spokesman's denial of Iranian claims that two Iraqi aircraft were downed over Iran 18 November. As for Iran's claim to have launched a new offensive in the Al-Sulaymaniyah area of northern Iraq, an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA asserted that no such operation has taken place and that Iran's claims in this regard are "totally baseless."

Bushehr Damage—During a visit to inspect damage at the bombed Bushehr plant, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization again warned that the plant contained nuclear material, and he held Iraq responsible for the consequences of any radioactive leak, IRNA reported. The official dismissed Iraq's claims that the raids had targeted a petrochemical complex, stressing that there are no petrochemical installations in Bushehr.

In Baghdad, the Iraqi attack on Bushehr was discussed during a meeting between the visiting FRG foreign minister and his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz, DPA noted. The Iraqi side rejected Iranian claims of a "Chernobyl-like catastrophe" as completely without foundation, the agency said. DPA had earlier cited the view of circles in the FRG delegation that there are no longer any obstacles in FRG-Iraqi relations.

Iraq-Syria

Syria's lack of objection to the Amman summit resolutions on Iranian aggression was "positive," Tariq 'Aziz declared in remarks cited by WAKH. 'Aziz noted that Iraq is waiting for further results of Syria's "new stand."

According to an *Al-Qabas* report cited by QNA, 'Aziz and his Syrian counterpart, Faruq al-Shar', will meet in Amman "soon" to arrange an Iraqi-Syrian summit in Jordan. It is expected that a resumption of diplomatic relations between Baghdad and Damascus will be announced after the presidential summit, the paper reported.

Iran

Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi announced that the third Majlis elections will be held 8 April 1988 concurrently with by-elections for the Council of Experts, IRNA reported. On the subject of border security, Mohtashemi noted that the border of West Azarbayjan Province has been successfully closed against the "infiltration of Iraqi-backed splinter groups," and he hoped that "positive results" will soon be achieved in Kordestan.

Israel

Minisummit Proposal—Although the proposal to launch Arab-Israeli negotiations at the Reagan-Gorbachev summit is associated with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, the plan was conceived in Jerusalem, not in Washington, IDF radio reported. It was Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres who proposed some 3 months ago to a Shultz aide that the summit be used for a "dramatic move" to invite Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian representatives to Washington, the radio disclosed. However, when Shultz presented the plan to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, the latter laid down various conditions regarding Soviet participation, including a demand that the USSR should not attend the negotiations, but only the opening ceremony. He also stipulated that the USSR permit the departure of Soviet Jews and resume relations with Israel. IDF radio said there are now only "very slim chances" of implementing the minisummit proposal, noting that King Husayn rejected the plan after it received a "cool" reaction from the Soviet Union. Meanwhile, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has sent a letter to Shamir stressing that there is no alternative to

an international peace conference and that any attempt to "distract attention" from the conference impairs chances for peace, the radio noted.

'Awwad Deportation Order—The Interior Ministry has rejected Palestinian non-violence activist Mubarak 'Awwad's request to extend his visa and has ordered him to leave Israel by 20 November, *The Jerusalem Post* reported. 'Awwad, who is a U.S. citizen, said the authorities will have to force him out or put him in jail.

Jordan-Egypt

Jordanian King Husayn welcomed President Mubarak 19 November, Amman radio reported. According to MENA, the consultations between the two leaders come at a time when both countries are making diplomatic efforts toward the convening of an international conference on the Middle East.

Western Sahara

A Moroccan military communique carried by Rabat radio announced that 245 "mercenaries" were killed and "large quantities" of weapons captured when Royal Army troops at Farsia and Oum Dreiga repelled a "large-scale attack." The communique, which acknowledged that 72 government soldiers were killed and 76 wounded, accused the attackers of trying to increase tension prior to the arrival of a UN fact-finding mission. An SDAR communique cited by Algiers radio noted that Saharan forces launched a "counteroffensive" against Moroccan troops at Oum Dreiga, capturing "huge quantities" of materiel and some Moroccan soldiers.

Tunisia

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, in his capacity as chairman of the Destourian Socialist Party, appointed Defense Minister Slaheddine Baly party treasurer, Tunis radio reported. Amor Chedli and Mansour Skhiri were relieved from their posts as assistant secretaries general, and Skhiri and Mohamed Sayah were removed from the party Political Bureau, the radio added.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Syria's Al-Shar', Iraq's 'Aziz To Meet 'Soon'

JN190948 Doha QNA in Arabic 0855 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Kuwait, 19 Nov (QNA)—Press reports here today said that Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Faruq al-Shar', Syrian foreign minister, will meet in Amman soon to pave the way for a new meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, which will also be held in Jordan.

Citing reliable sources in Amman, the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Qabas* reported that this had been agreed upon during the recent Arab summit, which had witnessed a meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn. The paper said that His Majesty King Husayn, monarch of Jordan, recently spoke on the telephone with the Syrian president. They discussed this meeting, which will pave the way for a Syrian-Iraqi summit. The summit will be held as soon as it can be arranged, possibly in the area of Umm al-Shamat [name as received] where the Syrian-Iraqi-Jordanian borders meet.

The paper added that fixing a date for the 'Aziz-al-Shar' meeting was left to the Syrian side. Moreover, there is agreement that the resumption of diplomatic relations between Damascus and Baghdad will be declared after the expected meeting between the two countries' presidents. It was also agreed to exchange visits between both presidents at a later time.

Al-Qabas also said that in addition to the proposed 'Aziz-al-Shar' meeting, which will be held in the next few days, Syrian and Iraqi ministers will meet in the form of committees specialized in various fields to discuss relations between the two countries. According to the paper, contacts were held between the two countries on the security level during which information was exchanged and views on many issues were corrected.

Bendjedid's Talks at Arab Summit Detailed

PM181244 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 9 Nov 87 p 3

[APS report: "President Chadli Bendjedid's Talks in Amman"]

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid had a meeting at his residence in Amman yesterday morning with Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium.

On the same day, the president of the Republic received Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al-Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain. President Chadli Bendjedid also received Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. The talks centered on the Lebanese crisis and Arab and international questions of mutual interest.

Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Politburo and foreign minister, and Larbi Belkheir, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the president's office, attended the meeting.

On behalf of Lebanon, the meeting was attended by Ghassan Tuwayni, adviser to Mr al-Jumayyil, and by former Foreign Minister Elie Salim.

President Chadli Bendjedid also received Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, accompanied by Jordan's ambassador to Algiers. Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi and Larbi Belkheir attended that meeting. The talks focused on the work of the extraordinary Arab summit.

President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN general secretary, had a meeting in Amman yesterday with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The meeting, which was attended by members of both delegations, concerned the Amman summit and questions of mutual interest.

At his residence yesterday, the head of state also received Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council, who was accompanied by Foreign Minister Ma'mun Sanadah and Agriculture Minister 'Umar Nur al-Din. This meeting was attended by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi and Larbi Belkheir. Talks centered on the work of the extraordinary Arab summit and Arab questions of mutual interest.

President Chadli Bendjedid also received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. Discussions involved the work of the extraordinary Arab summit and the strengthening of the Palestinian cause at Arab and international levels. This meeting was attended, on the Algerian side, by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi and Larbi Belkheir and, on the Palestinian side, by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh.

After the audience which the head of state granted him, Yasir 'Arafat made a statement to APS in which he stressed Algeria's constant support for the Palestinian revolution, also noting that Algeria has always campaigned to unite Palestinian ranks and the Arab nation. The PLO chairman also stressed that his talks with the president of the Republic had covered the work of the extraordinary Arab summit, which will discuss different Arab questions, notably the Palestinian issue and support for it in the Arab world and the

international sphere. Similarly, an international conference on peace in the Middle East and other very important Arab questions were discussed.

The president of the Republic also received Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri. Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi and Larbi Belkheir attended that meeting. Discussions focused on the new situation in Tunisia.

At the end of the audience which President Chadli Bendjedid granted to him, Mahmoud Mestiri made a statement to Algerian television in which he stressed that he was honored to meet with President Chadli Bendjedid "to whom," he said, "I handed a message from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and conveyed his fraternal greetings."

Mr Mestiri then said that President Chadli Bendjedid had inquired with interest about the new situation in Tunisia, adding that he had been asked to convey President Chadli Bendjedid's greetings to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Palestinian Affairs

PNC Speaker Urges International Conference

NC190452 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has emphasized that the Arabs should direct their attention to the urgent need to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East. He urged the Arabs to exercise a high degree of vigilance and shoulder their responsibility, affirming that a solution for the Palestinian and Lebanese issues and a halt to the Gulf war depend on Arab solidarity and unity of ranks.

In an interview which will appear in the *Al-Akhbar* newspaper tomorrow, Thursday, Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih said that after the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman the Arab masses should move on from the stage of decisions to the stage of implementation. He reiterated that the Arabs must take practical steps to stop the Iraq-Iran war, pointing out that the solution lies in Arab solidarity implementing the joint defense pact.

In the interview with *Al-Akhbar*, he expressed the hope that an international peace conference would settle the conflict in the region, restore rights to the Palestinians, establish a just peace, and halt the aggression. He added that an international conference should be empowered to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, otherwise this area will remain disturbed. Conflict and tension will persist, and the conflict might even extend to involve the outside world.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih went on to say that it is incumbent upon the Arabs to get ready for an international conference, to form committees, to undertake studies, and to be prepared in case they encounter deceptive and conspiratorial methods.

Commenting on the situation in Lebanon, the PNC speaker said that the Arabs should rescue Lebanon from its tragedy and those who are able should help to rebuild what has been destroyed by the long years of war. Turning to the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, the PNC speaker noted that relative calm has started to return to these camps and that steps to reconstruct them have been taken.

In response to a question about Palestinian-Jordanian relations, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that a Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue will begin to dot the i's and to establish Jordanian-Palestinian ties in accordance with the interests of both parties.

Asked about Palestinian relations with Syria, the PNC speaker replied that relations with Syria are still at the stage of contacts pending the beginning of the expected dialogue. He hoped the two parties would achieve results serving the Palestinian cause and being in the supreme Arab interest.

Abu Sharif Named 'Arafat's Press Adviser

JN181903 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 17 Nov 87 p 1

[Text] *Al-Watan* has learned that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat decided during his visit to Amman to appoint Bassam Abu Sharif to be his press adviser. Abu Sharif assumed his post during the extraordinary summit in Amman.

OPEC Affairs

'Likely Consensus' Expected at Next Meeting

LD181108 Vienna OPECNA in English 1021 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Vienna, 18 Nov, 87 (OPECNA)—OPEC conference President Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman told OPECNA last night that following visits by the OPEC ministerial committee to 11 of the 13 member countries, a point of view was emerging around which a "likely consensus" could be built at next month's meeting.

In a telephone interview from Bali, Indonesia, the president said the committee felt encouraged by the progress achieved so far in the talks held at the "highest political levels" in member countries. He added that there had been, for example, no objection in any of the countries to the principle of production auditing.

"All the member countries are in support of some form of permanent on-the-spot arrangement on auditing production to ensure compliance with national quotas," Lukman declared.

The second leg of the ministerial committee's tour of member countries started in Caracas, Venezuela, on 9 November and has since taken the mission to Ecuador, Algeria and Libya. In Indonesia, the committee was received Tuesday by President Suharto.

The first leg of the tour last month took the committee to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Qatar and Iran.

The OPEC president said last night that the committee would now visit Gabon, before ending its mission in Nigeria. These two remaining countries will be visited next month before the full OPEC ministerial meeting in Vienna on 9 December.

Commenting on a report which quoted him Tuesday as saying that OPEC was beset with "political differences", the OPEC president stressed that what he had said was that the December meeting was not going to be an easy one as there were "major problems to be settled".

But he noted that the meetings already held at the "highest political levels" by the ministerial committee should facilitate the search for solutions.

He said he had stated that the issues to be dealt with by the December meeting were not just technical, but also had "political implications".

Algeria

Iranian Delegation Briefs Algerian Official

LD161540 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 16 Nov 87

[Text] Algiers, Nov. 16, IRNA—The visiting Iranian delegation led by Deputy Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Shariati met the president of Algeria's Superior Islamic Council Ahmed Hamani here Sunday evening. The Iranian delegation briefed the Algerian official on the Islamic Republic's stands concerning Islamic unity, the Iraqi imposed war as well as the July-31 Mecca massacre by the Riyadh regime. The two sides emphasised on the need for unity among Muslims to counter the plots hatched by the foes of Islam.

Bendjedid Meets French Socialist Party Head

LD182006 Algiers APS in English 1110 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] [Dateline indistinct] President Chadli Bendjedid audienced Tuesday here the secretary general of the French Socialist Party, Lionel Jospin. Talks centered mainly on Algerian-French relations. Following this audience Jospin told the press that this meeting with President Chadli Bendjedid is the crowning of his visit to Algeria and discussions between the FLN party and the French Socialist Party.

"We had long, frank, warm and friendly talks. We discussed relations between France and Algeria as we all want them to be very good and hope to settle all problems that may still exist" "We also dealt with Maghreb problems and a certain number of international questions with visions that are often [passage indistinct] confident in future of Algerian-French relations".

President Receives Saudi Oil Minister

LD172254 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] General Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and party secretary, today at the Presidency received received Hisham al-Nazir, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral resources. Their talks centered on the international oil market. The meeting was attended by Belkacem Nabi, minister of energy, chemical, and petrochemical industries; His Royal Highness Amir al-'Aziz ibn Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, advisor to Al-Nazir; and the Kingdom's ambassador to Algeria.

Hisham al-Nazir made the following statement after he met with the president:

[Begin recording] There are continuing contacts between King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid. These talks cover many matters pertaining to bilateral cooperation and joint action by the two countries, especially the oil industry and its great importance to the two countries. Therefore, consultations continue on the situation in the oil market, attitudes of the various countries, and the best solutions to problems currently facing the oil market. These contacts continue. [end recording]

Ministers Receive Libyan Education Secretary

LD181148 Algiers APS in Arabic 0840 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Algiers, 18 Nov (APS)—Faysal Boudraa, minister of heavy industry, yesterday received Ahmad Ibrahim, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Education and Scientific Research. During their meeting, they examined possibilities for enhancing cooperation in training. The two sides then agreed on the principle of twinning institutes of the two countries and exchanging expertise between their scientific and technical research centers. Abdelmalek Nourani, minister of urbanism and construction, also received Ahmad Ibrahim the same day. The two sides discussed Algerian-Libyan cooperation in construction and methods of further developing these ties.

Chad

FANT Chief on Supply Needs, Libyan Losses

PM181144 Paris LE FIGARO in French 16 Nov 87 p 5

[Interview with FANT Commander in Chief Hassan Djamous by Pierre Darcourt in Paris; date not given—first paragraph is *Le Figaro* introduction]

[Excerpts] FANT Commander in Chief Hassan Djamous, is tall, slim, has delicate features, and is a quiet, courteous man. This agricultural engineer, who is recognized as an exceptional military leader, is only 32 years old. He comes from Iriba in eastern Chad, the stronghold of the Zagawa people, who are excellent horsemen. He has been wounded four times in 10 years of fighting. Djamous came to represent his country at the celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the death of Marshal Le Clerc. The Chadian warrior, who cares little about publicity, departed from his customary reluctance to speak with the media and agreed to talk to *Le Figaro*'s representative. [passage omitted]

[Darcourt] Are the losses that you have inflicted on the Libyans heavy and discouraging enough to make them stay at home?

[Djamous] Libya lost more than 10,000 men, but we must not be deceived. The present calm is precarious. Al-Qadhdhafi considered all our victories to be humiliations. He has sworn to repay us. All his border garrisons have been strengthened by regular units and thousands of mercenaries recruited from North Yemen and from among Palestinians, the Druze, and even Algerians.

They are then immediately sent toward the south. The equipment that was destroyed has been replaced. Ma'tan al-Sarra has been rebuilt and its defenses consolidated.

A new air base has just been completed at Tummo on the border with Niger. It now threatens the whole of northwest Chad. Another large base is in service at Al-'Uwaynat, on Libya's border with Sudan. There is a whole chain of military air bases along our border stretching from west to east. They all provide starting points for a large-scale offensive.

[Darcourt] Are you capable of resisting nonetheless?

[Djamous] We are fighting with our backs to the wall and Chad has no military industry. Our equipment needs replacing after having been worn out in successive battles. Logistics are difficult to guarantee. Our supply bases are also a long way from our front lines. We need fuel, antitank ammunition, and sustained support. Courage alone is not enough to fight a battle with. Also, we have been fighting without air cover from the start. We do not have many friends or many resources. The constant support of France is vital for our defense.

U.S. 'Clarifications' on Stingers Backed

AB181103 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States has just provided clarifications concerning its supply of Stinger missiles to Chad. In a letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the U.S. Government protested Libyan allegations that Washington was becoming directly involved in the Libya-Chad conflict. This document, which was published by Vernon Walters, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, stated that the United States' decision to supply Stinger missiles to Chad totally conforms to international law. The envoy also pointed out that these missiles are defensive weapons and do not threaten regional security in any way. Finally, he observed that Chad's resistance in the face of a Libyan invasion was an act of self-defense. Our commentary concerns the clarifications issued by the U.S. Government.

From these clarifications, the first thing to keep in mind is that the new (?U.S. military aid) to our country is in line with international law. International law says states are free to establish ties of cooperation with other states and to make sovereign decisions concerning the nature of this cooperation. The U.S. Government, in conformity with these stipulations, has thus decided to supply Chad with Stinger missiles.

Libya maintains similar relations of cooperation with its ally, the Soviet Union, which provides Tripoli with weapons. These arms have enabled Libya to wage [words indistinct] war against Chad and to massacre children, women, and old people. No one has denied Libya the right to establish these ties of cooperation with the Soviet Union, despite the adverse effects of these relations on peace, which is the precious asset of all mankind.

The second important aspect of the U.S. clarifications is that these Stinger missiles are only a response to a situation created by the Tripoli regime. The missiles never would have been sent to Chad if Al-Qadhdhafi had not occupied part of Chad's territory, humiliated Chadians, and trampled on their honor and dignity by openly proclaiming he was their master and owner. The aim of the Libyan invasion was to turn Chadians into slaves. (?The Chadians' riposte) is a case of self-defense, since they want to preserve their freedom and independence. Chad can, however, also occupy Libya militarily. For all those who may wish to believe that this is not true, we cite the example of Ma'tan al-Sarra, the memory of which remains vivid. But Chad has no such ambition [words indistinct].

The Stinger missiles recently supplied by the United States are meant to defend Chad, which is confronted with Libya's barbaric invasion. Libya has resorted to its Air Force to carry out its designs in Chad. This service has dropped thousands of tons of napalm and fragmentation bombs on the civilian population. As was rightly pointed out by the U.S. clarifications, these missiles are intended to protect Chadians against Libyan bombs. They do not threaten the security of our subregion. Those who are now gesticulating must realize that Chad will only wage war to defend its security and sovereignty.

Nation To Suffer 'Huge' 1987 Food Deficit

AB181458 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1650 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Kinshasa, 17 Nov (AZAP)—Chad will record a huge food deficit this year due to unfavorable climatic conditions and other natural calamities. Lossimian Naimbaye, Chadian minister of tourism and environment, stated this today on his arrival in Kinshasa. He indicated that for the last season, "Chad will record a huge food deficit due to a lack of rainfall and invasions of locusts, rats, and birds."

Mr Naimbaye, who is in Kinshasa to participate in this week's meeting of African ministers of tourism, affirmed that the government is making efforts to improve Chad's economic situation, despite the war situation in the country. However, he stated, these calamities and the shortage of rain are ruining the government's efforts. The Chadian statesman noted it is not easy to simultaneously fight a war against the Libyan invader and this drought despite the enormous efforts the government is making.

Mr Naimbaye then commented on the prevailing situation in Chad since the Lusaka meeting called for a cease-fire between the two warring sides. He stated that his country scrupulously respects the decision of the

OAU ad hoc committee. At the same time, Libya continues to overfly the northern part of Chad, even though there has not been any fighting.

The Chadian minister, in discussing the reaction of Libya and other countries to the United States' supply of Stinger missiles to the Chadian Government, stated this gesture by the U.S. Government "is in response to a request made by Chad to a friendly country to help it defend itself." He said that this step is nothing compared to the Libyan arsenal, which allows Tripoli to use all sorts of sophisticated military weaponry against Chad.

The Chadian minister of tourism and environment then asked himself why those who oppose the United States' supply of Stinger missiles have never spoken out against Libya's arms and its occupation of Chad. The number of Chadians killed by Libyan napalm and fragmentation bombs did not move these people, he concluded.

Mr Naimbaye said the meeting of African ministers of tourism will examine ways to develop tourism on the continent. A meeting of experts to prepare for this session will begin on 18 November

Egypt

Restoration of Diplomatic Relations Discussed

State Foreign Minister Comments

NC182215 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] London, 18 Nov (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that the restoration of diplomatic relations between Egypt and some Arab countries has given Egypt a chance to mediate between the Arab countries and Israel. He added that Egypt should maintain good relations with both the Arabs and Israel in order to carry out this mission effectively.

In a statement to the BBC, Dr Ghali noted that Egypt's restoration of diplomatic relations with over half of the Arab League member states does not mean that the Arab world is ready to recognize the peace that Egypt made with Israel.

Ambassador-Designate Interviewed

LD172218 Kuwait KUNA in English 2000 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] London, Nov 17 (KUNA)—The Egyptian Ambassador Designate to Kuwait Salahudin Muhammad al-Hindawi welcomed here Tuesday the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two sisterly Arab countries hoping the step would further boost the existing strong links binding them.

In his first ever press interview after his nomination to the post, Al-Hindawi told KUNA that he further hopes that the decision would strengthen joint Arab action and Arab solidarity.

He described the resumption of ties as "a major event that adds a new cornerstone to the old and very strong relations between the two countries."

Al-Hindawi has been working in the past 18 months as minister plenipotentiary in the Egyptian Embassy here.

He stressed that the decision is also an important political step, pointing out that thus exchange of political opinion on various issues will be possible and hoped that he will be successful in carrying out his duties.

Al-Hindawi praised Kuwait's progress in various spheres and underlined that the Egyptian people do not forget how Kuwait generously hosted the fifth Islamic summit last January and how the amir and Kuwaiti Government exerted efforts to patch up differences and unite stands for the benefit of the Arab and Islamic nations.

The diplomat noted that he was in charge, in the period 1983-86, of Arab affairs and the Palestine cause while serving with the Egyptian permanent mission to the UN and before that he worked as advisor for political affairs for Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

Al-Hindawi, who is expected to leave for Cairo within a week and later to Kuwait, said he was looking forward to assuming his new duties after Kuwait announces acceptance of his nomination.

'Revolution Nasirite Organization' Studied

NC181417 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 16 Nov 87 p 23

[Text] *Al-Nahar Al-'Arabi Wa Al-Duwali* has learned from reliable sources that the Egyptian authorities are currently studying whether to issue a number of bills of indictment against 70 members of the "Egypt's Revolution Nasirite Organization". They were arrested last month on charges of carrying out operations against Israeli and U.S. officials, in protest of the Camp David accords.

Reports on the investigations of the detainees confirm that Khalid Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, the eldest son of the late president, is the leader and mastermind of this organization. This has caused the Egyptian authorities' great embarrassment and has rendered the issue difficult to handle for the following reasons:

1. The difficulties that could be encountered in attempting to start an investigation of Khalid Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, considering the backing he enjoys both at home and abroad.

2. The Egyptian authorities' awareness that the members of this organization are dispersed throughout Egypt, that they belong to various classes, and that they are organized within secret cells. It has been estimated that their number is approximately 2,000 and is scattered throughout the country.

3. The fear arising from the outcome of the preliminary investigations, which indicated that these cells have a foreign link, and that they include non-Egyptian Nasirites, primarily those who have been committed to the doctrine of late President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir since he was in power.

Prosecution's Findings in Assassination Cases
NC181827 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Attorney General Counsellor Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jundi today announced the findings of the public prosecutor's office, the testimony of witnesses, and the coroner's reports pertaining to the attempts to assassinate former interior ministers Major Generals al-Nabawi Isma'il and Hasan Abu Basha, and *Al-Musawwar* Chief Editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad, and to the incidents that took place in Al-Kharqaniyah in the Al-Qalyubiyah Governorate and Santaris in the Al-Minufiyah Governorate. The findings also pertain to a number of crimes perpetrated during these events by the 33 defendants who were sent for trial last Sunday.

In its findings, the public prosecutor's office reported that defendant Yusri 'Abd al-Mun'im admitted during the investigations that he and the other defendants belong to a group which adheres to extremist religious beliefs. According to these beliefs, society, the ruler, and the people are apostates and employment by state departments is religiously prohibited, since those who work for the government, support it, or accept it are also apostates. The defendant also confessed that his group had sought to establish an Islamic state by forceful means and by altering the existing system of government in the country.

The defendant said that this group had decided to use violent means to achieve its goals at this stage. Proceeding from this premise, he had agreed, together with some other defendants who were members of the same group, to assassinate interior ministers and some journalists, and had prepared the necessary means and weapons to carry out their crimes.

Defendant Yusri 'Abd al-Mun'im admitted that he and the deceased suspect Muhammad Kazim had attempted, with the help of other people, to assassinate Maj Gen Hasan Abu Basha. Muhammad Kazim fired shots from his automatic rifle at the major general until he ran out of ammunition.

The defendants also confessed that within the general framework of their activities, and in order to attain the goals of the group at the present stage, which included the assassination of interior ministers, defendant Majdi Zaynuhum al-Safti and deceased suspect Muhammad Kazim had agreed to assassinate Maj Gen al-Nabawi Isma'il. They left for his house on Arab League Street. Defendant Majdi Zayunuhum immediately opened fire at him through the window of a vehicle and then made his escape. The defendants, he said, later learned that some pedestrians had been injured in the shooting.

The defendants also admitted that defendants Majdi al-Safti 'Adil Musa, and [first name indistinct] Husayn carried out the attempt to assassinate Makram Muhammad Ahmad, chief editor of *Al-Musawwar*. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak Departs for Amman 19 Nov
NC190832 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0809 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov, (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Cairo this morning for Amman for a visit of several hours. The delegation accompanying President Mubarak includes Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. The President is also accompanied by an information delegation which includes the chief editors of newspapers and MENA, and the chairman of the Information Authority.

President Mubarak was seen off by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; Safwat al-Sharif, information minister; and Zaki Badr, interior minister. He was also seen off by Jordanian Ambassador in Cairo Husayn Hammami.

Safwat al-Sharif stated that the meeting between President Mubarak and the Jordanian monarch is part of their constant consultations. Pointing out that this meeting's importance lies in the fact that it is the first between any two Arab leaders since the Arab summit conference in Amman, he noted that the two leaders will discuss the outcome of the summit.

Al-Sharif praised King Husayn's efforts, saying that he had played an effective and strong role in achieving Arab solidarity and in leading the Amman summit to its positive results. He also said that President Mubarak and King Husayn are in constant touch and that they will continue to exchange visits to consult with one another and exchange views on various international and regional issues that concern the Arab nation and the Jordanian and Egyptian peoples. In conclusion, he said

that the meeting between the two Arab leaders comes at an important juncture in the course of Arab action and solidarity and is being held to discuss the results of the Arab summit.

Today's meeting between Mubarak and Husayn is the 21st since both countries resumed relations in 1984. It is being held at a time when Egyptian and Jordanian diplomatic efforts are jointly aimed at paving the way for an international conference for peace, with the participation of all parties. The last meeting between the two Arab leaders took place in Cairo on 11 October. Past meetings have focused on regional developments, peace efforts, Arab positions, and bilateral relations.

Jordanian Minister on Mubarak Meeting

NC181251 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Jordanian Transport Minister Ahmad Dakhqan has expressed his utmost pleasure at his meeting with President Mubarak today, saying that it dealt with Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation in the field of transport.

Minister Dakhqan was asked whether there will be a meeting soon between President Mubarak and King Husayn. He said that the president and King Husayn are linked by strong fraternal ties and that their continuous meetings are indicative of their aspirations for the issues of the Arab nation and those which have a bearing on the Arab homeland's destiny. He affirmed that cooperation and coordination between the two leaders are unceasing. [passage omitted]

Transport Agreement Signed

NC181929 Cairo MENA in English 1742 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, Nov 18 (MENA)—Today Egypt and Jordan signed the minutes of the joint Egyptian-Jordanian committee on transport in order to facilitate passenger and freight movement between the two countries through Al-Nuwayba' and Al-'Aqabah Red Sea harbours.

Egyptian Transport Minister Sulayman Mutawali and his Jordanian counterpart, Ahmad Dakhqan signed for their countries.

Departs 19 Nov

NC190859 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—Jordanian Transport Minister Ahmad Dakhqan left Cairo this morning after a 3-day visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. He also held talks with his Egyptian counterpart Sulayman Mutawalli, who saw him off at the airport. [passage omitted]

Ghali Cites PRC Officials on U.S., Gulf

JN181237 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 13 Nov 87 pp 48-50

[Interview with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Sana' al-Sa'id; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sa'id] A few days ago you concluded a tour of Asia which included the PRC capital, Beijing. What motivated you to undertake this visit?

[Ghali] President Husni Mubarak entrusted me to convey a message from his excellency to PRC President Li Xiannian, and to hold talks with PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian. This stems from the Egyptian diplomacy's desire to enhance the traditional relations with the PRC, particularly in light of rapid regional and international developments. Moreover, I chaired the Egyptian delegation to the 3-day second conference on Egyptian-Chinese relations in Beijing. The intensive sessions were designed to explore new horizons in promoting relations between Egypt and the PRC in the political, diplomatic, commercial, trade, cultural, parliamentarian, and party spheres. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Undoubtedly the PRC, which has a permanent seat at the UN Security Council, has a role in and a position on all world issues, including Middle East regional issues which directly concern our peoples. What exactly is the PRC's views on the developments of the Iraq-Iran war? How does it view an end to this war whose continuation jeopardizes the region as a whole?

[Ghali] The PRC officially affirms its neutrality toward the war and stresses that it is exerting constant efforts to end it as soon as possible. The PRC's declared policy is based on refraining from supplying either side with weapons and demanding a settlement to the dispute through negotiations. The PRC is also opposed to the tanker war currently taking place in the Gulf. It abides by respecting freedom of international navigation and the security of Gulf countries. The PRC denounces the superpowers' exploitation of the Gulf countries' request to alleviate tension, end the war, and ensure freedom of navigation by regarding this as an opportunity to increase naval presence in the Gulf, thus increasing tension. This could lead to a true internationalization of the war.

[Al-Sa'id] Some sides have accused the PRC of supplying Iran with weapons, including J-6 and J-7 warplanes and Silkworm missiles, in an attempt to appease Iran and out of the realization of Iran's strategic importance in the region.

[Ghali] The PRC strongly denies supplying Iran with weapons or missiles. According to what the president told me during our meeting, the United States is attempting to blame the PRC for the escalating tension

in the Gulf by accusing it of supplying Iran with weapons. In this regard, the PRC believes that the divulgence of U.S. arms sales to Iran constituted a political and diplomatic blow to the United States. This made the United States concoct the issue of PRC arms deals to Iran in an attempt to divert public attention and to recover the lost U.S. credibility among its Arab friends. This is also designed to conceal U.S. intentions to increase the military presence in the Gulf in order to compete with the Soviet Union there.

The PRC president also told me that the United States is responsible for provoking unrest in Chinese Tibet in order to create problems for the PRC and distort its image before world public opinion.

[Al-Sa'id] Is there any tangible Chinese move to prove that it wants to play an active role in support of efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war, now that it has become a complicated East-West crisis?

[Ghali] During our talks, the PRC foreign minister stressed that the PRC—which participated as a permanent UN Security Council member in issuing Resolution 598—supports the UN Secretary General's efforts to convince the two sides to accept the resolution, though it believes that no pressures or sanctions should be imposed on the rulers of Tehran at this stage because this will make them escalate the situation further and consequently impede the current peace efforts. The PRC demands that the two warring sides begin talks under conditions acceptable to them both, so as to end the war as soon as possible.

[Al-Sa'id] What is the PRC stand toward efforts to hold an international Middle East peace conference? What is the PRC's role in creating an atmosphere for holding this conference?

[Ghali] During my talks with the PRC officials, I reviewed with them Egypt's diplomatic efforts to hasten the convocation of this conference to achieve a solution to the Palestine question, the Middle East conflict, and to support peace and stability in this vital region of the world. I also stressed the importance and necessity of an active PRC call for holding this conference and its positive role at the conference, if it is convened, as it is one of the UN Security Council member states. In fact, the PRC officials, particularly the PRC president, expressed their support for holding this conference and their readiness to do their utmost to guarantee its success. This is in harmony with their firm support for the Palestinian people's rights, and their firm stand toward the Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories which were occupied in 1967. The PRC officials also stressed that the lack of an appropriate Palestinian representation at the conference would cause it to fail. In this regard, I recall what the PRC president said. He stressed that consolidating Arab solidarity and understanding among Arab states regarding this conference would overcome many obstacles to its convocation. The PRC president also said that this would also contribute to mobilizing world public opinion in favor of the Palestine problem and its peaceful solution. The PRC foreign minister also stressed that the international conference is an appropriate and effective means to achieve a just and reasonable solution to the Palestine question.

[Al-Sa'id] What about PRC relations with Israel? Do you have any knowledge about its plans to establish diplomatic relations with Israel?

[Ghali] The PRC foreign minister referred to his meeting with the Israeli foreign minister in New York at the latter's request. During their meeting, the PRC foreign minister informed the Israeli foreign minister of PRC support for holding an international conference and stressed the need for Israel to change its hostile policy toward the Arab states so as to guarantee the success of the conference. He also stressed the need for the PLO to be represented at the conference, pointing out that Israel's continued refusal to recognize the PLO would deal a fatal blow to peace efforts, and therefore, Israel should relinquish this stand. The PRC foreign minister also stressed to Peres that the PRC will not establish diplomatic relations with Israel unless it changes its stand. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] How do you assess the PRC policy in general toward Africa, especially since the PRC was, in the past, the best supporter of the African liberation movement? Has there been any change in this stand after the PRC gave priority to its cooperation with the West?

[Ghali] In general, the PRC's interest in developments in the African arena has continued to be at the top of PRC foreign policy priorities. I sensed this during my meeting with the PRC president, who asked me about developments in the Libyan-Chadian conflict. He also showed interest in settling this conflict between two neighboring states out of their concern for Arab and African solidarity. The PRC officials also stressed their condemnation of the practices of the Pretorian regime, this terrible regime's aggressions against the neighboring African states, and its interference in their affairs. The PRC officials also denounced the Pretorian government's intransigence toward the independence of Namibia. Moreover, the PRC diplomacy continues its firm support for the states confronting South Africa's pressures. The PRC also extends economic and technical aid to all African states in the fields of development, training, and trade exchange with lower prices than the prices of Western commodities, which burden trade among the African states and the capitalist European states.

[Al-Sa'id] What is your impression of the PRC's open door policy? What new signs may a visitor find in Chinese society?

[Ghali] Without exaggeration, I can say that the reform of the economic system, which began over 8 years ago, has realized significant achievements compared with the

achievements witnessed by China in the past 30 years—one can notice the change and the variety in the different aspects of Chinese life. All this clearly shows the progress that took place in China's standard of living. Its society's development of new housing complexes, modern houses, stores' commodities, citizens' varied dress, cities' sites, and other signs of reform attract one's attention. [passage omitted].

[Al-Sa'id] What is your evaluation of the conference on Egyptian-Chinese relations which took place in Beijing? What subjects were discussed?

[Ghali] The conference on Egyptian-Chinese relations, which convened for 3 days in Beijing during the second half of October 1987, is the second in a series of conferences which are considered a new way to further promote relations between the two countries. The first conference was held in Cairo in October 1986. The second conference dealt with studying different regional and international issues of mutual concern and the effect of the two superpowers' policies and acts on African and Asian regional security. The Egyptian and Chinese delegations also dealt with all challenges facing Third World countries in the current phase of international relations. Undoubtedly, such conferences help achieve for the two countries greater mutual understanding and more coordination of interests and political and diplomatic stands in the field of international activity and in various world organizations and forums.

Regarding bilateral relations, the conference discussed in detail means of enhancing these relations in various political, diplomatic, trade, economic, party, parliamentary, cultural, sports, youth, and other fields. The conference also discussed the various obstacles impeding the progress of these relations and ways to overcome them. The conferees reviewed opening new vistas of progress and further deepening bilateral relations. They also discussed intensifying the contacts between the leaderships in different sectors in a way that would lead to realizing mutual benefits for the friendly Egyptian and Chinese peoples. The result of our analysis was to emphasize the importance of continuing to hold such conferences as an unconventional way to further promote bilateral relations, in addition to other conventional ways, proceeding from our conviction that political and academic viewpoints are usually directly scientific and not restricted by formalities. In fact, they enrich the diplomatic activity and give it an additional important and welcome dimension.

We agreed to hold the third conference in Cairo in the second half of December 1988. We will select the general topic under which the various subjects and papers will be included prior to presenting them for discussion by scientists and diplomats of the two friendly countries next year. [passage omitted]

New Wafd Party Leader Views Mubarak Regime

JN171341 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Nov 87 pp 3-5

["Text" of speech by Fu'ad Siraj al-Din, leader of the New Wafd Party, at a rally to mark the 69th anniversary of "National Struggle Day" in Cairo on 13 November]

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen, dear guests: Today, 13 November 1987, we celebrate the 69th anniversary of one of the most glorious days in our national history. On such a day in 1918, Sa'd Zaghlul [founder of the Wafd Party] and his two colleagues, 'Abd al-'Aziz Fahmi and 'Ali Sha'rawi, went to the British high commissioner, who was the representative of the English occupation and the actual ruler of the country since the British Army's occupation in 1882. They asked him to remove the British protection that was imposed on Egypt, recognize Egypt's independence, and allow them to travel to Paris to present the Egyptian question to the Paris Peace Conference held after World War I.

The British high commissioner rejected their demands and denied them the right to speak on behalf of the Egyptian people. Millions of Egyptians then signed petitions authorizing Sa'd and his companions to seek independence for the country. Signatures were collected throughout the country. Sa'd sought to propagate his demand and urged the masses to demand their right to independence. That annoyed the British high commissioner and his government, who arrested Sa'd and exiled him to Malta on 8 March 1919, with some of his colleagues, foremost among whom was Mustafa al-Nahhas. On the day following Sa'd's arrest, as soon as the people heard the news, the largest rebellion in Egypt's long history erupted throughout the country. As a result of the rebellion the English were forced to release Sa'd and his companions and allow them to travel to Paris. [passage omitted]

From this concise historical review we turn to issues of the day. Foremost among the issues of concern to the people and to the Wafd is that of democracy and the Constitution. Those who imagine there is any issue that is more important are mistaken, because the increase in production and the improvement of economic conditions are closely linked to the question of democracy and its consolidation.

In an interview published on 6 November 1987 in the Paris-based *Al-Watan Al-'Arabi*, President Mubarak rightly said: "I view the democratic experience as a basic process in rebuilding Egyptian society."

Can there be increased production in a collapsing society or, as President Mubarak said, it is necessary to rebuild the society? How will it be rebuilt?

The president says in the same interview: "Democracy is essential for such a process." What is the democracy that is the basis for building Egyptian society, as the president rightly said? Is it mere slogans and the flowery phrases we use in our speeches and statements or is it actually practiced?

The democracy we have learned and peoples of the world know and practice is that in which the people rule themselves through their representatives who they choose in free and honest elections.

Can it now be said that such a situation exists? Can it now be said that the people are governed by freely and honestly elected representatives? You all know what happened in the latest elections. Our brothers who succeeded in the contest know the woes they met before they succeeded.

Democracy respects for human rights, and does not infringe upon the dignity of other human beings. Democracy safeguards the freedom of citizens and does not falsify their will. Democracy means that the nation is the source of all powers.

Democracy, brothers and sisters, does not accept middle of the road solutions. It is not administered in doses, one dose after the other—and God only knows how long such doses will continue or when it is will be time for the second, third, and fourth doses. Democracy is not related to a country's prosperity or to difficulties in its economic situation; otherwise, it would be a democracy of stomachs. The only way to prosper and resolve crises is through democracy. To those who say that whenever our economic situation improves we are given a new dose of democracy, I say once again that they are mistaken. Democracy does not differ from one country to another. Democracy is one in every country, in every place, and at all times. I liked an expression by Mustafa Amin in one of his daily columns, "An Idea," in which he said: "In a democracy the parliament elects the rulers, while in a dictatorship the rulers select the members of parliament. In a democracy the people oversee the ruler, and in a dictatorship the ruler oversees the people."

I ask: Is there now real democracy in Egypt? Regrettably, there can be no true democracy while we have lived for 6 years under an emergency law and a martial law without the existence of the necessary conditions stipulated by the emergency law. The emergency law is a flagrant violation of freedoms and sanctities and a sword held by the ruler above the heads of the people.

We did not want all of President Husni Mubarak's first tenure to be under the canopy of the emergency law or the martial law. I hope that President Mubarak will not begin his second tenure with a reinforcement of the emergency law.

Reinforcement of the emergency law by any government is an indication of its inability to govern under ordinary laws. What detracts from this democracy which some claim exists in Egypt, is the existence of the laws which confine freedom. These are the exceptional laws that were called the disreputable laws: they are the ethics law, the law of protecting the internal front, the law of suspicion, the law of the state security courts, the law of the socialist prosecutor, the law of the political parties, the law of the press, and the law of the election by tickets. Although not all of these laws were enacted during late President al-Sadat's tenure for personal and party objectives, it is time these laws were repealed. In their recent conference, the Egyptian judges frankly demanded that all these laws be revoked. They also considered them as a shackle to democracy and civil liberties.

We do admit that President Mubarak has restored the freedom of the press. But this does not mean that it must consist of only the freedom to publish. It must also consist of the freedom to issue newspapers without any restrictions other than those stipulated under the press and publications law so that we can say that we really have a free press. To confine the manifestations of democracy to a specific article or expression can in no way be viewed as the sound application of the principle of the freedom of the press. For 100 years before the British occupation, everyone had the right to issue the newspapers he wished without any restrictions. In my opinion, there is another crime that confiscated the freedom of the press; this is the nationalization of the press. The newspapers in Egypt were nationalized and called the national newspapers, which conflicts with the freedom of the press. These papers became owned by the ruling party and began to speak in its name, propagandize for it, and fight its opponents. These papers are no longer national, nor owned by the people as the word "national" indicates. Therefore, they are party papers and their editors and chief editors cannot be blamed as the issue is not in their hands. The same applies to the formation of parties. We cannot say that we are free to form parties, as this requires many procedures, much time, and efforts which may end in failure and the party would not be granted a license.

Real democracy has its own components and bases which must be available. Regrettably, we lack all these components and bases. The first base is the existence of a democratic constitution that will be formulated by a constituent assembly freely elected by the people in accordance with the most modern democratic systems.

The present Constitution was formualted by a committee whose members were chosen by the late President al-Sadat. The Constitution was formulated with the one party system, the Arab Socialist Union, in mind. At last, the fifth article of this Constitution was amended and the system of government has become based on the system of the plurarility of parties. But most of the other articles, which should have been amended in light of the new article, had not been amended. Al-Sadat even amended

this Constitution by introducing provisions and articles, some of which were rejected by the committee after discussion, such as Article No 74. This is the accursed article which Al-Sadat used in September 1981. According to this article Al-Sadat arrested 1500 persons of various political views: politicians, religious men, members of the press, and others. In their conference on 5 February, the opposition parties demanded that a new constitution that will enhance the people's power and limit the ruler's power be enacted on the condition that it include the following fundamental principles:

1. A compelete separation of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

2. The right of the People's Assembly to oversee the budget and carry out the amendments it deems suitable.

3. The endorsement of the principle of ministerial responsibility before the People's Assembly in a manner that would lead to the resignation of the minister or the cabinet once a vote of no confidence is passed. If the People's Assembly decides to withhold the vote of no confidence from the cabinet, it must immediately resign as is the case in democratic countries. But this does not happen here.

The president makes the decision. If he does not ratify the assembly's vote of no confidence, he refers the issue once again to the assembly. If the assembly insists on its decision, it will be dissolved and a referendum is held on this decision.

4. The freedom of opinion, belief, and of holding meetings.

5. The freedom of press and forming parties.

6. The election of the president and the vice president through public and direct elections and the inadmissability of the renewal of their tenure.

7. The president and the vice president's abandoning of the membership or presidency of political parties once they are elected.

8. The applications of the parliamentary system, not the presidential system.

9. The guarantee of trade union liberties and the noninterference in the trade unions' affairs.

10. The inadmissibility of combining public posts in the public sector with membership in the People's Assembly.

11. The inadmissibility of forming special courts to try citizens, otherwise, military courts will have rule over nonmilitary personnel.

12. Considering election rigging and interference in elections a crime punishable by hard labor and not subject to prescription.

13. Amending the current Consultative Council law to specify the duties of this council, like those duties which were specified for the Senate in the past, otherwise, this council should be abolished. This would help save the millions that are being spent on this council. These are the demands that have been submitted by the opposition to his excellency, the president. The opposition believes that the new constitution should be based on meeting these demands. Otherwise, the constitution would be void of any content, except on paper. We reject the idea of being ruled by a reactionary and totalitarian constitution that was tailored to suit the ruler. We also refuse to see our democracy restricted to no more than writers who write and newspapers that publish to ease pressure on people, and deputies who are good at nothing other than applauding the ministers and moving to the agenda. It is regrettable that the current regime does not believe in full, genuine democracy because it creates all the obstacles hindering the attainment of that democracy.

Dr Yusuf Wali [NDP secretary general and deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation] expressed this belief in a statement that he made in Khartoum before a gathering of Egyptian parties' delegation members. He said: In all frankness, democracy does not befit developing states. He knows and we all know that Egypt is foremost among developing states. If this is the opinion of the ruling NDP secretary general, the one who has the final say in Egypt's affairs, how could we hope for the well-being of this country? And how could there be hopes that the people's aspirations regarding achieving democracy will be realized? [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, I would like to speak now on Husni Mubarak's chairmanship of the NDP. This chairmanship flagrantly contravenes one of the basic principles of democracy; namely, that of granting equal chances to parties. This has been manifestly demonstrated in the recent People's Assembly elections and also in the Consultative Council elections which preceded them and in all past referenda. The president's chairmanship of the NDP has resulted in the following:

—Recruiting and utilizing all of the regime's apparatus for serving the NDP, its candidates, and supporters.

—Seeing all governors, under secretaries, senior state officials, chairmen and members of the boards of directors of public sector companies and high-ranking officials in these companies without exception join the NDP.

Governors are well aware of the fact that keeping their posts is contingent upon the NDP's remaining in power. Therefore, when they interfere in elections by rigging them in favor of the NDP, they are actually defending

their entity and their posts. In contrast to the situation in the United States, we know that U.S. governors are not appointed by a presidential decree—a matter which applies in Egypt. Instead, they are elected with the presidential candidate. Each U.S. presidential candidate has his own entourage of governors with whom he is elected [sentence as published].

—Exploiting the media apparatus—press, radio, and television—to serve and promote the NDP and assail and defame the opposition parties' leaderships.

—Using all state facilities, institutions, and buildings to serve the NDP. An example of this is convening the NDP's congress at the conference hall of the Cairo University last year. This congress, which lasted for 3 days, resulted in suspending university classes for 2 weeks until the congress finished its work. The NDP used all offices and rooms at the university. It also used the university residential complex for hosting NDP members coming from the regions and provinces. And now, I want to pose the following question: If the new Wafd Party requests to hold its annual congress at the conference hall of the Cairo University, would this be approved? [passage omitted]

We wished from our hearts to see President Mubarak as president of all Egyptians, and not president of one party only. And which party is that? It is the party that has no political weight in the street. If he is sincere in what he says, he would abandon his chairmanship of the NDP and hold free and honest elections, safeguarded by law. Then he would realize that there is nothing in Egypt called the NDP. The New Wafd Party also adopted a stand toward nominating President Mubarak for a second term and did not vote in these elections. At that time, we pointed out that the Wafd did not vote for three reasons. First, the referendum process is a far cry from democracy and it is unprecedented in the world. Direct free election is the only way to elect presidents in democracies. However, this referendum system was initiated by Al-Sadat in 1971 because there was only one party at the time, the Socialist Union, and party rivalry was absent in free or unfree elections. However, since laws have been amended and the Constitution now includes the multi-party system, then every individual or party has the right to freely elect the president. In light of this, the Wafd believes that this referendum system is an obstacle to democracy. We undoubtedly highly appreciate President Mubarak as a person. We had wished that President Mubarak would seize the opportunity to be the first Egyptian president elected by the people through free elections. We have no doubt that he would have been elected unanimously by the people, as was the case in the 1981 referendum. I do not believe that there would have been anyone to compete with President Husni Mubarak. Even if there were any other competitors, it would not have made a difference because it was the people's decision. In fact, they wanted President Mubarak to adhere to the referendum system and this is why we did not vote for him. We also did not vote because Mubarak did not announce a clear program for his reelection. Elections should be conducted on a democratic basis. We have tried to discern President Mubarak's program or intentions regarding big issues of interest to the Wafd, such as democracy and emergency laws; however, we did not accomplish anything. Moreover, the papers and studies which we presented in the 1987 elections were not taken care of and President Mubarak viewed our advice as arm-twisting. We do not adopt this policy and no one can adopt it. However, what happened is that we, along with the other opposition parties, presented a memorandum to President Mubarak, including what we wanted from him. In this memorandum we said that we wanted a program from Mubarak and called for national demands.

The second reason is that the current Peoples Assembly's constitutionality is in question due to the invalid elements in the elections laws. Therefore, Al-Wafd's representatives at the assembly did not vote to reelect President Mubarak for a second term. This was pursuant to a decision by the Wafd higher committee. It is also based on the Wafd program and in harmony with its principles.

Brothers and sisters, Egypt is currently suffering from a stifling economic crisis. We spoke about this issue in the past and we cannot cover all its details now. However, I tell you that this crisis is the result of the following factors: the military adventures from which we suffered throughout the past 30 years. There was no stability in Egypt during these years. These adventures led to the introverted policy which also led to the open-door policy. As a result of this, there was also a shift from socialism to capitalism, in addition to confusion in economic laws, the spread of extravagant spending and waste, and lack of production. In order to settle this crisis, action should be taken to increase production, narrow the gap between production and consumption, and to link the increase of production with salaries. Unfortunately, we cannot see serious government action to achieve these objectives. This situation has reached a point where we now import 60 percent of our food in general, and 80 percent of our wheat. [passage omitted]

I would like to talk about another issue being used against the Wafd. It is the issue of applying Islamic law. Islam is the religion of democracy because it is the religion of counsel, and counsel is democracy. The Wafd does not oppose the application of the Islamic law. The Wafd's program clearly states that Islamic law is the main source of legislation. The Wafd will continue to adhere to this principle. We call for clearing the current laws of all impurities conflicting with Islamic law. Everyone believes in the soundness of Islamic law, but it is wrong is to allow the men of religion to rule. We do not want another Khomeyni in Egypt. Capitalizing on religion is unacceptable and forbidden. The Wafd opponents accuse it of refusing to apply Islamic law.

This is a lie. I have repeatedly announced the Wafd's opinion, and I am repeating it this evening. We agree to apply Islamic law, but we reject any attempt to make

Islamic law a subject of one-upmanship, exploitation, and capitalization. The Wafd denounces and condemns the acts of terrorism which some extremists carry out from time to time. These acts have nothing to do with Islam and Islamic law. We reject any form of terrorism. [passage omitted]

Ladies and gentlemen: Some personalities may launch a campaign of lies against the Wafd. We know they will be ordered or forced to do so. What is more regrettable and saddening is President Mubarak's participation in this campaign. President Mubarak is a president for all Egyptians. He has no right to support a party against another party at a time when he says that all Egyptians are equal. He mentions Egyptian leaders in modern history, but ignores Mustafa al-Nahhas. President Mubarak believes that Mustafa al-Nahhas was not a leader. The fact that Mustafa al-Nahhas was a leader is beyond question, and any attempt to belittle that leader will increase the people's enthusiasm for him. The life of Mustafa al-Nahhas is a brilliant chapter of Egypt's history. No one can ignore him. What is worse is that President Mubarak did not only ignore Mustafa al-Nahhas, but also denied the existence of the Wafd as a legitimate party. This came in his statement to the Paris-based magazine *Al-Watan Al-'Arabi* last week. The statement was also published in Egyptian papers. He said: "We have legitimate parties. We have the Socialist Labor Party, the Liberal Socialist Party, and the Al-Ummah Party. These parties represent the opposition." Where is the Wafd, Mr President? Such a denial will not eliminate the Wafd. The strongest opponents did not deny the Wafd although they fiercely attacked it. President Husni Mubarak went beyond that. How can we beleive that he is a president for all Egyptians, and that to him, all Egyptians are equal?

Finally, I would like to tell the president that the Wafd is a reality because it was born among the people, was brought up by the people, and did not eliminate another party and seize its money and headquarters. The Wafd has emerged from the conscience of the people and will live as long as the people live. The Wafd will remain a symbol of the people's aspirations and struggle for the sake of freedom and democracy.

Sisters and brothers: The issue of democracy and freedom is our issue and goal. We are marching toward that goal with determination. We will not hesitate to make any sacrifices until our proud people achieve freedom and democracy. I beseech Almighty God to grant our glorious people every success and happiness and enable them to restore authority and become the source of authority and decisions.

Libya

Rallies Protest Arabs Resuming Egyptian Ties

LD182000 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] A huge, angry demonstration to reject the latest episode in the reactionary plot against the Arab issues of destiny has begun in Tripoli. This episode consists of the resumption of relations by a number of Arab regimes with the Egyptian regime, which is still involved with the Zionist enemy through agreements that have shackled the will of the nation, and which has plotted against the Arab nation's struggle and sacrifices.

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] The masses have gathered here and the proceeded from the Green Square in Tripoli. They have taken to the streets today to denounce this pan-Arab treason that has taken place at the expense of liquidating the Palestinian cause, which is the pan-Arab, basic cause for the Arab nation. The masses who took part in the demonstration of wrath chanted pan-Arab slogans denouncing the reactionary and imperialist collusion. They stressed their determination to continue the revolutionary and unionist struggle until agentry, treason, and plots in the Arab nation are uprooted. [crowd chants slogans]

The demonstration proceeded toward the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress, where the following statement was read: We categorically reject the humiliating and shameful resolution. The recognition of the Egyptian regime constitutes recognition of the Zionist entity and support for the anti-Arab camp. These regimes are trying to find futile justification for establishing relations with Egypt [word indistinct] the masses of the Arab nation.

The masses also emphasize that the setbacks suffered by the great Arab nation are the result of the treacherous Stable David treaty. These setbacks include the invasion of Lebanon; the evacuation of the resistance from Lebanon; the Sabra and Shatila massacres; the siege on, starvation of, and destruction of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon; the aggression against Arab capitals; the increase in the number of Jewish immigrants to Palestine; the embarkation of the Zionist enemy, this aggressive element, on the militarization of space and Star Wars; the Zionists' possession of nuclear arms; the Zionists' securing Egypt's southern front; the Atlantic aggression on the Great Jamahiriyah, which was launched from both the north and the south; the eruption of the Gulf war; and the transformation of the Arab Egyptian land into a shooting range and training ground for American and Zionist forces. [anti-reactionary slogans chanted] [end recording]

'False' U.S. Statements on Missiles in Chad

LD171753 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] The United States is accustomed to denying, and in some cases distorting, its military and political decisions and its stances on burning international issues. Just as it announced earlier this year that it was not directly involved in the Iran scandal, today it is stating that it does not support Chad with Stinger missiles and that it does not aim to consolidate its military situation in the region. This statement was made despite the fact that the U.S. Defense Department and the head of the U.S.

Administration, Reagan, officially announced at the beginning of this month that the United States has supplied Chad with these missiles. The various media reported this with great interest, considering that it happened while the OAU is assiduously studying and discussing the Chadian question and seeking its peaceful settlement.

Thus, the latest statements by the U.S. Administration, according to which it did not send defensive weapons to Chad in order to threaten neighboring countries, as well as the statement by the U.S. delegate to the United Nations that Chad was supplied with Stinger missiles for purely defensive purposes, are false and groundless. This new, hostile act by the U.S. expresses its desire to fan tension and anxiety among the African countries and to defeat all the regional efforts which aim to solve the problem peacefully.

We should also mention that this is not the first of the intensive military assistance which the U.S. Administration gives to the agent Habre's clique in Chad. The United States has turned Chad into an arsenal of sophisticated U.S. military weapons. These weapons were sent at the beginning of this year in cooperation with France, since French military aircraft were an effective means of transporting French and U.S. weapons to Chad, in addition to U.S. experts who are presently stationed in Chad on a large scale. Those precedents cannot rescind the accusation that the United States once again supplied Chad with Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, which the head of the U.S. Administration himself confirmed.

Mauritania

BBC Reports Start of Coup Plotters' Trial

AB190813 London BBC World Service in English 0730 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] A trial has opened in Mauritania of 50 people accused of plotting to overthrow the government of President Maaouya Ould Taya. If convicted, the accused face possible death sentences or at least 10 years in jail.

The BBC West Africa correspondent says that all those before the court are black Mauritanians and that the trial has brought to surface some of the racial divisions that run deep in Mauritanian society. The accused, most of them soldiers, are all members of the largest of the black Mauritanian tribes, the Toucouleurs. They include the assistant head of presidential security and the former interior minister, Colonel Anne Amadou Babaly.

Morocco

King Receives Cable From Egypt's Mubarak

LD172303 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, has received a cable from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Here is the text:

Your Majesty, Brother King Hassan II, King of Morocco:

It gives me pleasure to send to Your Majesty and to the Moroccan people my sincere and heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of your Independence Day. It gives me pleasure on this occasion to praise the (?close ties) between our two fraternal peoples, of which we are proud and which we are eager to consolidate in their common interest, in the service of the causes of our Arab and Islamic nation. With our best wishes for happiness and (?prosperity), I wish your fraternal people continued progress and [words indistinct] with our utmost fraternal (?respect) and fraternal appreciation.

Military Communique on Polisario Attack

LD182129 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] The High Command of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces has issued the following communique:

The mercenary forces today launched a large-scale attack on the positions of the Royal Armed Forces deployed in the Saharan provinces in the Farsia and Oum Dreiga regions. The mercenaries used two motorized regiments and an armored regiment to attack support positions in the Oum Dreiga region and used a motorized regiment and an armored regiment, backed by heavy artillery, to attack support posts in the region of [name indistinct].

The fighting continued from 0600 to 0730, resulting in the following:

The Royal Armed Forces: 72 were martyred and 76 others were injured; 9 vehicles were destroyed.

The mercenaries: 245 were killed and 36 were captured. The mercenaries also lost 35 vehicles of various types, 16 of which are serviceable. They also lost 21 Soviet-made BMP armored personnel carriers, 10 of which are serviceable. That is in addition to large quantities of weapons and ammunition destroyed or captured by the Royal Armed Forces.

Observers note that the mercenaries' attacks today came after a quiet period that had lasted several months, the last attack coming in March to be precise. These attacks have the purpose of escalating tension in the area 48 hours prior to the arrival of the UN Technical Committee. The timing and target chosen by the mercenaries clearly reveals their premeditated intention to widen the scope of the conflict. Their goal is to torpedo the efforts of the UN mission, which constitutes a hope for an end to the conflict and an important link in the chain of peace that was initiated by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The mercenaries' attacks clearly confirm the oppositionist and rejectionist stance which they have not ceased to adopt to hamper the efforts of the UN mission.

Sudan

Al-Mirghani on Constitutional Conference

JN161320 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Nov 87 p 19

[Report on interview with Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani, chairman of the State Council, by Ahmad al-Dabbas in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] His Excellency Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council, has said that the extraordinary Arab summit conference, the summit of reconciliation and accord, achieved great results It also gave the distinguished conference great momentum and was successful by all Arab and international standards. [passage omitted]

In response to a question on the southern Sudan problem—which is disturbing the fraternal country and depleting its resources—and methods of resolving this chronic difficulty, Al-Mirghani replied: The problem in southern Sudan is an old one. This situation began in 1955. It is an ordinary problem; it is not as formidable as depicted by some hostile media that have special interests and objectives for exaggerating it. He added: What is happening in the south is in fact not a civil war, nor is it internecine fighting. There are outlaws in the south. The Sudanese Armed Forces therefore carry out limited military operations to protect southern citizens from attacks by these outlaws. This is so they can continue their daily lives and so services are accessible to them.

Al-Mirghani continues: Despite all this, and despite exaggerating this problem, we believe in a political solution. We can see no other way to end it than a political solution. Therefore, we call for a constitutional conference as soon as possible. With a full sense of responsibility, I call on all political groups in southern and northern Sudan to participate in this constitutional convention. I ask them to come with open minds and hearts, for the sake of a brotherly and objective dialogue, to end the problem in southern Sudan. This will allow us to devote ourselves to tackling the economic difficulties of the country and to dedicate all efforts to developing Sudan.

In reply to a question about Sudanese efforts on an international level, within the framework of the OAU, to solve the southern Sudan problem, Al-Mirghani replied: Of course we will continue our efforts on all levels. However, I reiterate that this problem is essentially an internal one.

In discussing oil prospecting in Sudan and the results to date, Al-Mirghani explained: Due to previous explorations, oil was found in the south and in the central and northern provinces. However, it was not located in commercially-efficient quantities. We are now continuing explorations and carrying out studies to evaluate the results and determine the economic feasibility of drilling for oil. We are still in the study stage. It has become apparent that the oil capacity in the Central Province equals the rate of 75,000 barrels per day. This is not a commercially-viable quantity. [passage omitted]

In discussing the failure of the Democratic Unionist Party to so far hold its general congress, Al-Mirghani noted: As a matter of fact, the delay in holding the general congress is due to circumstances rather than to differences or critical factors. Weather conditions and last month's rains prevented this conference from being held, due to communication difficulties. This is because most roads were impassable and the rains made travel difficult for Party members. [passage omitted]

Al-Mirghani then answered a question on the trend of the southern parties to unite within the framework of the so-called African bloc. He stated: Certain southern parties are in fact leaning toward forming the African bloc. However, we do not want to jump to conclusions. In any case, the southern brothers have full freedom and authority to form the parties they desire. They should cooperate with their brothers in the north, within the framework of their parties. Moreover, there is no discrimination between the north and the south since we are one country and one people. [passage omitted]

Ba'th Leader Condemns Attack on Kurmuk

JN172040 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Nov (SUNA)—In a statement to the press today, 'Umar Muhajir, member of the Political Committee of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, declared that Ethiopia's shelling of the city of Kurmuk with heavy artillery is a flagrant violation of national sovereignty. He added that the Ba'th Party rejects and condemns such an aggression.

Muhajir also noted that the facilities the Ethiopian forces made available to the Garang forces for the occupation of Kurmuk is a serious Ethiopian escalation. He said this action aims at undermining peace efforts and dialogue between the Sudanese political forces and at increasing the current national crisis. Muhajir said that the Ba'th Party believes in the need for all Sudanese nationalists to act quickly to regain the city of Kurmuk after liberating it from the Garang forces. He added that the Armed Forces should be strengthened. Muhajir also said that the current national crisis will be resolved only through democratic dialogue to achieve peace and stability.

Samuel Aru Issues Statement on Peace Talks

JN172135 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1443 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Nov (SUNA)—Samuel Aru, chairman of the Southern Sudanese Political Association [SSPA], has issued a statement announcing his refusal to halt peace talks until the township of Kurmuk is returned

to normal. He called for continuing military efforts along with the peace process to restore the township of Kurmuk. Aru added that the people will suffer further from any decision to halt the peace talks.

The statement says that negotiations to form a new government have not stopped. However, the statement adds that no progress has been made even though the SSPA has nominated its candidates and asked for a meeting with Al- Mirghani and Al-Mahdi. The statement pointed out that the Al-Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party insist on appointing ministers and regional governors without abiding by any definite policies and programs.

The statement additionally notes that southern Sudan enjoys regional autonomy in accordance with the 1985 Constitution. Therefore, the southern parties possess the right to appoint the Southern Council and the regional governments. It adds that these parties agreed to relieve Mathew Abor of his post and appoint Ilyaba Surur to be speaker of the Parliament. The statement urged Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to relieve Mathew Abor as speaker of the Parliament in accordance with the Constitution. The SSPA document reiterates that appointing the speaker of the Southern Council and the southern governments is not the responsibility of the two coalition parties.

Education Minister Criticizes Teachers Strike

JN172048 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum Nov 17 (SUNA)—Ministry [as received] of education, Bakri 'Adil, threatened that he will withdraw the amendments proposed by the government to improve the job scale for the secondary schools teachers if they insisted on continuing their strike. The minister stated here today, in a press conference, that he will ask the teachers union to introduce a new job structure to be studied by the government.

The union has actually gone on strike two days ago in protest against the delay in implementing the recommended amendments in spite of the fact that the government had fixed Nov 30th to start the application. Moreover, the minister pointed out that the strike is illegal and that the government may be forced to enforce law and maintain discipline. He added that the total cost of the amendments is 241 million pounds to be applied through three years and that the amendments increase their salaries by 100 percent.

Garang Forms S. Funj Administrative Body

EA182143 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Excerpts] The chairman and C-in-C, SPLM/SPLA, John Garang de Mabior, has formed a committee to organize people's administration in the liberated areas of Southern Funj Administrative Area. [passage omitted] The committee is to begin its work with immediate effect as of today, Wednesday, 18 November 1987, under the second axis commander, Commander Salva Kiir Mayardit. The people of Southern Funj Administrative Area are hereby asked to welcome and work with the committee.

Technical Committees With Libya Announced

JN181553 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1448 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Nov (SUNA)—Sudan and the Libyan Jamahiriyah have agreed to form joint technical committees in the fields of transportation and communications to implement the bilateral cooperation protocol on wire and radio communications, roads, and maritime transportation.

This was announced by Jum'ah al-Ghazzani, head of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Sudan, following his meeting today, Wednesday, with Aldo Ago, minister of transportation and communications. Al-Ghazzani said that these committees will work to implement a project designed to boost telephone and telegraphic communication between Khartoum and Tripoli via Tunisia and through Arabsat. These committees will work for an exchange of expertise between the two states. They will also work to establish radio relay stations near the common borders of the two states.

Al-Ghazzani stressed that the readiness and determination of the Great Jamahiriyah to help Sudan build the Al-Kufrah-al-Fashir Road and to supply Sudan with the necessary asphalt for building roads. He also emphasized that these committees will be formed immediately.

Tunisia

Mestiri on Resumption of Ties with Egypt

NC191625 Paris AFP in English 1616 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Tunis, Nov 19 (AFP)—Tunisia will decide if it is to restore diplomatic ties with Egypt after consultations with its neighbors, notably Algeria, Foreign Affairs Minister Mahmoud Mestiri has said. Mr. Mestiri said in statements published Thursday by the Tunisian *Al-'Amal* daily, the newspaper of the Socialist Destourian Party, that he hoped the consultations underway with Algeria would lead to a "constructive and open" position on Egypt.

He noted that two North African countries, Morocco and Mauritania, have already restored ties with Cairo after an emergency Arab summit last week authorised individual Arab states to renew relations with Egypt after an eight-year break.

Nine Arab states have resumed formal diplomatic ties with Cairo since the summit concluded last Wednesday. Mauritania, Algeria and Tunisia are linked by a 1983 treaty of "friendship and understanding."

Party Central Committee To Meet 5-6 Dec

LD181326 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, chairman of the Destourian Socialist Party, held a working session at the Republican Palace in Carthage this morning with Party Secretary General Hedi Baccouche, Party Director Dr Hamed Karoui, and Party Treasurer Slaheddine Baly. The session was devoted to an examination of the Party's affairs and its relations with the French Socialist Party, the League of African Socialist Parties, and the Socialist International.

It was then decided to convene the Party's Central Committee on 5 and 6 December on the basis of the following agenda:

1. To carry out a critical study of the political action from independence to 6 December 1987, followed by proposals for adjusting working methods to the new situation.

2. The recent economic measures and ways of adjusting them to the recent Congress resolutions.

3. The Party's statutes.

The chairman of the Destourian Socialist Party calls on the militant Destourians to be more active to give the Party a new impetus that is compatible with the new era which Tunisia entered on 7 November. They must maintain harmony within the Party and rally around it in response to the aspirations of young people and intellectuals and in order to enable all the dynamic forces to carry out organized activity within Party structures.

President Chairs 'Working Session' 17 Nov

LD181016 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Justice affairs and the organization of the Ministry of Justice, as well as the study of cases of people who have stood trial, (?were the focus) of a working session chaired by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage. The session was also attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche; Mohamed Salah Ayari, minister of state in charge of justice; Slaheddine Baly, minister of state in charge of national defense; and Habib Ammar, minister of the interior.

His excellency the president met with Mohamed Ali Souissi, new director general of Tunis-Air, in the presence of Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and Abdelrazak Kefi, minister of transportation and tourism.

Baccouche Talks With World Bank Officials

LD142038 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Nov 87

[Text] Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche today exchanged views with a World Bank delegation at the Government Palace in the Casbah. The talks covered cooperation programs between the World Bank and Tunisia and the excellent relations between them.

The World Bank officials expressed their support and backing for the economic and social policies pursued by Tunisia and their assistance to Tunisia in achieving the 7-year plan.

The World Bank delegation is headed by Kamal Darwish, Bank director for relations with the Maghreb.

Saudi Envoy on 'Bright' Bilateral Relations

LD171627 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Tunis, 17 Nov (SPA)—Ibrahim Sa'd al-Ibrahim, the Kingdom's ambassador to Tunisia, has confirmed that future relations between the Kingdom and Tunisia look bright and that bilateral relations will be consolidated in more than one field. He said there will be continuous contacts following the new situation in Tunisia to the benefit of the two fraternal countries.

The ambassador of the Kingdom added in a statement published today in *Al-'Amal*, organ of the Destourian Socialist Party, that the event which Tunisia witnessed on 7 November, the transfer of power to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali [words indistinct].

Former Officials on Prospects for Return

LD161429 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1127 GMT 16 Nov 87

[Text] Tunis, 16 Nov (KUNA)—The weekly Tunisian newspaper *El-Anwar* reports today that former Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali has decided of his own free will not to return to Tunisia at present to avoid legal proceedings against him. The paper adds that Mzali was sentenced in absentia to 15 years. But, the paper notes, he may return once the legal situation is settled and a new sentence is passed.

Mzali said in a statement to Medi 1 [Moroccan commercial radio] that he will soon return to Tunisia. It is recalled that former Minister Driss Guiga, who returned home last Sunday, was not under house arrest after having appealed against the sentence passed on him and was awaiting new developments.

As for Ahmed Ben Saleh, leader of the Popular Unity Movement, who is now living abroad, *El-Anwar* has learned that his purely legal status dictates his immediate imprisonment upon arrival at Carthage Airport because

he was sentenced in his presence and escaped from prison, which is a legal situation for which there can be no appeal, objection, or revision.

As for former Tunisian Foreign Minister Mohamed Masmoudi, he has said he will return after some time when the course of the new regime becomes clearer and when many measures that he had called for in the past, such as the granting of a general amnesty and the guaranteeing of intellectual and physical freedoms, are adopted.

With regard to Wassila Ben Amar [Bourguiba's ex-wife], she has decided not to return for personal reasons and because of her special status, which she wants to study without haste before returning.

Both Tahar Belkhodja [former minister] and Ahmed Bennour [former senior state official] have decided to wait a while to see what their position will be before returning to Tunisia.

Western Sahara

Liberation Army Attacks Moroccan Walls

LD182015 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] The Saharan Liberation Army launched a fierce battle at dawn today against the Moroccan forces in the area of Oum Dreiga according to a communique by the SDAR Information Ministry. According to the statement, the battle is part of the counteroffensive by the Saharan forces in which they attacked the Moroccan defensive walls and captured huge quantities of military equipment and a number of Moroccan soldiers.

Details of 18 Nov Attacks

LD191138 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] The UN fact-finding commission arrives in the Saharan region tomorrow. Meanwhile, the Saharan combatants are proving once again that the defense walls which have exhausted the Moroccan budget defend nothing. The two major attacks launched by the Saharan Army prove this and, equally, the fact that the solution lies in implementing the UN resolutions on the matter.

Here are the details: The first attack took place in the Oum Dreiga area. A communique issued by the Saharan Information Ministry says that the Saharan Liberation Army launched a major attack yesterday morning against the positions of the Moroccan forces stationed in the region. During the fierce fighting, the Saharan Liberation Army forces occupied three positions and pursued the Moroccan forces 15 kilometers behind the defense walls. Large quantities of military hardware were confiscated—trucks and weapons—and a number of Moroccan soldiers were captured.

As for the second attack launched by the Saharan Liberation Army forces, it took place in the Douihet area, Farsia region. The Saharan Information Ministry communique says that the attack against the Douihet area took place at the same time as the attack against Oum Dreiga. The second attack, the attack against Douihet, resulted in the death of 63 soldiers and an NCO, and the injuring of 61 others in the ranks of the Moroccan forces, in addition to the destruction of (?a number of) armored trucks, troop-carriers, trucks, and three ammunition dumps. Furthermore, large quantities of arms and military documents were seized.

The Saharan combatants were also able to occupy four important positions [passage indistinct].

Yesterday's fighting comes at a time when Western Sahara is preparing to receive the UN fact-finding mission which is coming to collect the necessary information to implement the peace plans of the OAU and the United Nations. The technical commission due to arrive tomorrow in Al-Ayoun will visit Saharan refugee camps and study the measures to be taken for the withdrawal of the Moroccan forces and administration from Western Sahara in order to arrange a free and just referundum as provided by OAU Resolution 104 and UN Resolution 41-16.

Bachir Mustafa Sayed, member of the Polisario Executive Committee, has stressed that the implementation of these two resolutions is necessary for the independence of Western Sahara, and therefore the technical commission must concentrate on this key issue. Bachir Mustafa Sayed also revealed Morocco's attempt to abort the role of the technical commission by rejecting from the start the results of the work of this UN commission even before the latter had started its work, and by restricting its mission to attempting to secure a cease-fire.

Finally, the Saharan official affirmed the preparedness of the Saharan leaders to cooperate with the United Nations to find a peaceful and definitive solution to Western Sahara.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister on Summit, Egypt, Gulf War

JN192119 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1752 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Antoine Nawfal dispatch from Kuwait]

[Text] Despite his numerous duties as Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad remains above all else an Arab policymaker. He is a basic party to any Arab meeting on fateful issues. His quietness is legendary and is expressed by a permanent smile. He does not object to expanded meetings but instead prefers side consultations. He says one of the benefits of these meetings is that they are confined to a small number of participants, particularly those who disagree with each other. Such talks can thus greatly help to remove these differences.

At the first Kuwaiti Cabinet meeting—chaired by the Kuwaiti amir—following the Amman summit, Shaykh Sabah reviewed the results of this conference. He concentrated on the importance of the meetings held on its sidelines. This is a clever way of saying that the results achieved at the summit were reached during these talks and not at the open sessions. This may also be a shrewd way of indicating that many agreements between the Arab leaders were and remain secret. Nevertheless, Shaykh Sabah believes that the extraordinary Amman summit was 80 percent successful. This is a very high figure when it is considered that the Arab states arriving in Amman brought their differences and misunderstandings with them. Thus, Shaykh Sabah says, the miracle occurred and Arab reconciliation turned a new corner. This reconciliation is not so much directed against anyone as it is an expression of a sincere desire by all of our Arab brothers. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad added: We must pay tribute to the pioneering role played by King Husayn. The Jordanian monarch met the serious responsibility entrusted to him in dealing with this great event. The manner in which he conducted the conference was comforting and responded to the aspirations of the Arab people.

We asked the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister: Does the restoration of bilateral relations with Egypt herald its return to the Arab League? Shaykh Sabah answered: We must distinguish between the resumption of bilateral ties between Egypt and the Arab states, and Egypt's return to the Arab League and its institutions. We hope Egypt will join its sisters in the Arab League to prevent Israel from benefiting from its isolation. We should consider any action conducive to Egypt's return to the Arab League to be directed against Israel, to prevent the Israelis from implementing their policy. The Israeli strategy is based on isolating the Arab states from one another.

Shaykh Sabah then responded to a question concerning his intention to visit Egypt: Nothing prevents me from visiting Egypt. There is no longer any obstacle, and I would like to visit it at the earliest opportunity.

When asked if the Amman summit opened the door, even a little, for dialogue between Damascus and Cairo, Shaykh Sabah answered: Damascus is not blocking Egypt. The Syrian veto is directed against Article 6 of the Camp David treaty on joint defense. The question is one of priorities; that is, which agreement has priority. Does Article 6 of the Camp David accords take precedence over any agreement between Egypt and the Arab states, or vice versa? This is what will be discussed with the Egyptian brothers as a step toward Egypt's return to the Arab League. The Arabs cannot live without Egypt, and Egypt cannot live without the Arabs. This is particularly true during the current critical circumstances facing the Arab nation. In any case, President Husni Mubarak has more than once declared Egypt's adherence and commitment to the Collective Arab Defense Pact.

When asked about the development of the Syrian stand, Shaykh Sabah replied: We should not forget that Syria is more than anything else a deeply rooted Arab country, the one that sparked Arab nationalism. Moreover, we have not asked Syria to terminate its ties with Iran. What is important is that we understand each other. Consequently, Syria is not required to make an immediate 180-degree turn. We appreciate the Syrian role. The attendance of our Syrian brothers at the Amman summit was also a guarantee of its success.

Asked whether Syria has a role to play toward Iran and toward efforts to find a solution, Shaykh Sabah answered: There is no doubt that Syria can play a role due to its good relations with Iranian officials. We are confident it will do its best to end this meaningless and unjustified war, a conflict that will have no victor or vanquished. We are waiting for the ball to bounce, and we are looking ahead to Security Council Resolution 598 optimistically. Iran has requested that the party that started the war be determined. This is included in the resolution. Iran spoke about the use of chemical weapons in the war. This subject is also included in the resolution, as well as the subject of rebuilding what has been destroyed in the conflict. The UN resolution lists everything in a logical sequence. We are looking toward the brothers in Iran and hoping that they will respond to this resolution.

We asked Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad about the financial aid that was reportedly given to some Arab countries. He replied that the subject of material and financial aid was not discussed whatsoever and that this matter is better left to bilateral relations between states. In any case, the development fund is still operating despite changing circumstances.

Finally, when questioned about the alteration or omission in the English text of the summit resolution on Palestinian representation, Shaykh Sabah responded: The subject of the Iraq-Iran war, which is why the summit was held, did not prevent a discussion of the Middle East and Palestine questions. What concerns me is the Arabic text, which emphasizes that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinean people. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, concluded by stressing that the Lebanese should promote understanding among themselves and settle their differences. This is so they can benefit from the new, positive atmosphere beginning to prevail in Arab relations.

Mauritanian Minister on Bilateral, Arab Ties

LD181355 Kuwait KUNA in English 0937 GMT 18 Nov 87

[By Saleh Nazal]

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 18 (KUNA)—Mauritania's diplomatic relations with Iran will remain cut off for as long as Tehran continued to reject peace bids and escalated its threats to neighbouring Gulf countries, Mauritania's member of the Military Committee for National Salvation and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane asserted.

Mauritania severed ties with Iran last June 28 over Tehran's stubborn attitude toward its war with Iraq and rejection of all offers to end the war coupled with Iran's threats to neighbouring Gulf states.

Ould N'diayane, who is currently visiting here, told KUNA that the prime objective of his visit is to convey his country's support to Kuwait regarding the provocations and attacks it is exposed to and carry blessings for Kuwait's measures to defend its territory and trade interests.

Contacts between Mauritania's President Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya and H.H. the amir of Kuwait have been maintained all through and also kept up between senior officials at all levels, he said, adding Kuwaiti-Mauritanian relations are "warm, privileged and social."

He said Kuwait continues to help his country economically in all vital sectors and that in the course of his stay here he will seek avenues of further fostering of cooperation not only in the economic and financial fields but also in culture, education and other fields.

Kuwaiti and Mauritanian views on the situation in the Arab world and the Islamic arena "were identical" when he tackled them with senior Kuwait officials and with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, he said.

The Mauritanian minister lauded the Gulf Cooperation Council as "a perfect example" of geographical grouping of countries of similar circumstances which, he said, will in the end serve the higher interests of the Arab nation in unity and fraternity.

In this connection, he said unity of the Arab Maghreb is a strategic and national objective but proposed, to avoid past failures of the drive, to begin with economic integration prior to overall comprehensive unity.

He cited the entente and fraternity accord reached between Algeria and Tunisia as the best formula for achieving that goal pointing out that the recent change in Tunisia's leadership has not affected the accord or Mauritania's relations with Tunisia.

He dismissed reports of the Western Sahara dispute having a negative effect on his country's internal situation asserting that Mauritania is neutral and maintains excellent relations with Algeria, Morocco the two adversaries in the dispute as well as with the Polisario, the government in-exile of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR).

Commenting on the recent abortive coup in his country, the Mauritanian foreign minister said the situation in the country is now stable after the failure of the unpopular coup which was led by a handful of ex-Army officers and ministers.

On his country's economic development plan and means of financing it, the Mauritanian official said assistance from international organisations including the International Monetary Fund is one of the prime sources of the plan with "Kuwait's positive role always coming at the most opportune time."

PDRY

Al-Dali Pledges No Political Ties With Egypt

LD182232 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Aden Hasan Aminian, conferred with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) on mutual relations as well as regional issues, in the Yemenese capital Wednesday.

The South Yemenese minister said his country's stand vis-a-vis the Islamic revolution is "unchangeable", and called for expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On decision of some Arab countries for resuming relations with Cairo, Al-Dali said PDRY will establish "no political relations with Egypt."

Reportage on Visit by FRG's Genscher

Arrives in Baghdad 18 Nov

JN181418 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—Hans-Dietrich Genscher, FRG vice chancellor and minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Baghdad today on a visit of several days. In a statement to INA and the correspondents of Iraqi and foreign papers in Baghdad, Genscher expressed happiness at responding to the invitation of Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister. He added that his visit comes under important circumstances with regard to current developments in the region.

Genscher said: During the visit, we would like to be briefed on the results of the Arab summit in Amman. We would also like to hold consultations with Iraqi officials on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

He was received by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and a number of officials of the Foreign Ministry.

DPA Report on Arrival

LD181417 Hamburg DPA in German 1334 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad (DPA)—Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher arrived in Baghdad today for a 24-hour visit. After a wreath-laying ceremony at the German military cemetery, talks with the Iraqi leadership are planned, principally with state President Saddam Husayn. Genscher intends to brief himself on the chances of fulfilling the cease-fire called for by the UN Security Council in the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq.

Saudi Arabia, which the federal foreign minister has just visited, expressly placed itself behind Genscher's Baghdad trip. The latest Iraqi air raid on the site of an Iranian nuclear power station in the city of Bushehr will also be discussed, the Foreign Ministry in Bonn said.

Sources in the delegation gave assurances that there are no longer any obstacles in German-Iraqi relations. The tensions, which had arisen because of Genscher's comment in an interview on Iraq's blame for the start of the war, have been completely settled.

Begins 'Official Talks'

JN182021 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] The official talks between Iraq and the FRG began at the Foreign Ministry this evening. The Iraqi side was led by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minster and foreign minister, and the FRG side by Hans-Dietrich Genscher, FRG vice chancellor and minister of foreign affairs. Talks centered on bilateral relations, the situation in the region, developments in the Iraq-Iran war in light of Security Council Resolution 598, and issues of mutual interest.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the head of the International Organizations and Conferences Department, and the head of the First International Department. On the FRG side, the talks were attended by the FRG ambassador in Baghdad, the deputy head of the Second International Department of the FRG Foreign Ministry, and a number of ministry officials.

UN Resolution Discussed

LD190945 Hamburg DPA in German 0759 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Baghdad (DPA)—Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher underlined the importance of the UN resolution on a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran in 4 hours of talks with Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Baghdad on Wednesday evening. According to diplomatic circles, the Iraqi attack on Iran's Bushehr power station, in which a German engineer was killed, was also discussed. Iranian claims of a "Chernobyl-like catastrophe" were rejected by Iraqi officials as completely without foundation.

In the talks with Genscher, the Iraqi leadership expressed its support for the decisions of the Arab summit conference in Amman and welcomed the resumption of relations with Egypt by numerous Arab states. But for Genscher the central topic was the implementation of the UN resolution. According to delegation circles, Genscher underlined the significance of the agreement reached among all the Security Council members that the resolution should be implemented. Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz repeated Iraq's agreement. [passage omitted]

Holds 2d Round of Talks

JN191150 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—A second round of official Iraqi-FRG talks was held here today under Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, vice chancellor and foreign minister.

Yesterday, the Iraqi and FRG sides held the first round of talks which dealt with bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and developments in the Iraq-Iran war in light of UN Security Council Resolution No 598. Talks also dealt with issues of mutual concern.

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN191130 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Hans-Dietrich Genscher, FRG vice chancellor and foreign minister. Talks dealt with relations between Iraq and the FRG, which involve several areas, and the two countries' interest in promoting them. Talks also dealt with the situation in the region, the continued Iranian aggression against Iraq, and the Iranian threats to regional states. They also dealt with the need for a comprehensive and sound implementation of Resolution 598, which was unanimously issued by the Security Council and which is supported by the international community.

Moreover, the talks dealt with the positive results of the Amman summit. The summit stressed the Arab countries' solidarity with Iraq in its legitimate defense of its sovereignty and security and also in its sincere endeavors to achieve a comprehensive peace. The summit emphasized its solidarity with the Arabian Gulf states to enhance Arab solidarity. The talks also dealt with issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the president's secretary; and the FRG ambassador in Baghdad.

'Aziz on Resolution 598, Ties With Syria

JN182051 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1825 GMT 18 Nov 87

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (WAKH)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that he is still waiting for notification from the United Nations to travel to New York and to hold talks with the UN secretary general on the implementation of Resolution 598 calling for ending the war. 'Aziz told a group of journalists at Baghdad International Airport this afternoon that the Iraqi Government has informed the secretary general of his readiness to travel after the Amman summit.

Responding to a question, the Iraqi foreign minister said that Iraq's understanding of the UN secretary general's invitation for the two parties to come to New York is that the secretary general will talk with the two parties simultaneously. He added that Iraq has not laid down conditions for the format of the talks with the secretary general. However, he affirmed that Iraq continues to have the same understanding of the secretary general's invitation. He added: Moreover, Perez de Cuellar has not informed us of any understanding that differs from Iraq's.

He reiterated Iraq's rejection of any amendments to Resolution 598. He said: The resolution cannot be played with. The resolution, he said, was issued as it is and the international community and the Security Council in particular has to implement it as it is. 'Aziz stressed that Iraq resists Iranian attempts to play with the resolution, to interpret it in a tendentious manner contradicting its essence, and to play with the order of its clauses. 'Aziz said: We cannot allow this to happen. Iraq rests on legal and logical bases as well as on the resolution itself—its essence and the objectives that the Security Council hoped to achieve.

Tariq 'Aziz denied any possibility of reconsidering Resolution 598. He said: There will be no talk about reconsidering the resolution. He described everything that is being said in this regard as baseless.

On the need to move to the stage of imposing sanctions on Iran, 'Aziz said that the Security Council was supposed to have moved to the second stage of imposing sanctions on Iran a long time ago, shortly after the issuance of the resolution. 'Aziz added: It is clear that the Iranian stand in its essence rejects the resolution. However, he said, there are still parties in the Security Council that are not in a hurry to reach the right conclusion for reasons he described as unconvincing. He hoped that the Security Council would reach the correct conclusion, adding: We hope this will take place as soon as possible.

He described [FRG Foreign Minister] Genscher's visit to Iraq as an opportunity for dialogue between the two countries. He said: We welcome the German minister's visit, which will contribute toward bolstering understanding between the two countries. The visit, he added, will be an additional opportunity for exchanging views between them. It will also contribute toward promoting the existing relations of cooperation between Iraq and the FRG.

'Aziz also described the Iranian claims of launching attacks on Iraq as the drums of aggression and war. He said: In my view, this reflects the deep impasse faced by the Iranian regime after the failure of its aggressive military plan for more than 7 years and after it has become besieged because of international pressure to implement Resolution 598. This impasse also comes after the strong slap this regime received from the Amman Arab summit conference.

'Aziz said: The Iranian regime is trying to extricate itself from this impasse through aggressive acts, among them the aggression in the central sector yesterday. 'Aziz added: Praise be to God, this aggression was met swiftly and efficiently. This indicates the Iraqi forces have the capacity and preparation necessary to reply to any aggression on any level that the Iranian regime might think of.

Answering a question on the relationship with Syria, Tariq 'Aziz said that at the Amman summit conference the Syrian delegation did not object to the resolutions adopted by the summit vis-a-vis the Iranian aggression against Iraq and the Iranian aggressions against Kuwait and the Arabian Gulf states. He said that this is a new stand (?and we consider it) a positive one. He said: We should wait and see what the Syrian stand will produce during the coming stage.

He recalled what President Saddam Husyan said in his speech to the Arab summit conference in Amman. President Saddam stated that out of its deep feeling toward its pan-Arab responsibility, Iraq is ready to respond to any positive step by any party regardless of Iraq's opinion about that party and its previous stands. He also said that Iraq is ready to deal positively with any development in the stand of any Arab country in accordance with that party's commitment to the Arab League Charter and the Collective Arab Defense Pact.

Answering another question, 'Aziz affirmed that aircraft of the Iraqi Air Force yesterday attacked a petrochemical production complex in Iran. He added that the production of this complex was used in aggression and that his information is that this Iranian installation is considered a target in the state of war.

UN Told of Shelling of Residential Areas

JN182112 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1852 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] The United Nations, 18 Nov (INA)—Iraq has notified the UN Security Council again of the continuation of the Iranian regime's shelling of Iraqi residential areas. In a message delivered today by Iraq's permanent UN Representative 'Ismat Kittani to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraq said that the Iranian regime's shelling of residential areas in Al-Sulaymaniyah and Basra last Thursday and Friday injured one child and another citizen, in addition to damaging civilian property.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Fighting in North Denied

JN181323 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—Iraq has denied Iranian allegations of fighting in the Al-Sulaymaniyah area of northern Iraq, within the framework of what Iranian propaganda calls the Zafar-3 operations. In a statement to INA today, an Iraqi military spokesman said that such operations did not take place in any area of the Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate or elsewhere. The spokesman stated that the Iraqi Armed Forces in this sector did not lose any martyr nor had any prisoner been taken in the past 2 days. The spokesman stressed that Iraqi Division 36 Command was not shelled as Iran had said and that several journalists will be visiting this command.

The spokesman stated: It is easy for a government which does not respect itself or its people, such as the Iranian Government, to make false statements and to create imaginary battles with the aim of reviving the collapsing morale of its forces.

The spokesman added that making claims is one thing and telling the truth is another. The fact is that Iran's claims are totally baseless. The spokesman described the process of using names such as Zafar or Nasr operations as ridiculous and insipid propaganda used by the Iranian information department. The spokesman said: People know full well that such names expose the Iranians' failure and lies; they are like an out of date record.

The spokesman said: Interrupting radio programs to broadcast lies is a stupid method and the Iranian Government only deceives itself. He added: We invite anyone who is nominated by Iran to visit this area and we promise to return him safely after he realizes the truth.

Concluding, the spokesman said that the Iranian Government has set a record for telling lies. This indicates its crisis more than anything else.

Press Visits Al-Sulaymaniyah

JN181323 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—The Iraqi Culture and Information Ministry today organized a tour for Arab and foreign journalists and news agency correspondents in Baghdad to the area where the Iranian regime had claimed that fighting took place. The journalists and correspondents visited the Darband-i Khan sector in the Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate of northern Iraq to ascertain the falseness of the Iranian claims.

Iranian Plane Hits Hospital

JN181526 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1506 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—An Iranian plane deliberately attacked the public hospital in Dahuk Governorate, northern Iraq, at 1507 [1207 GMT] today. A military spokesman told INA that the bombing martyred 5 women and 1 child and injured 30 patients, including a number of women and children. The military spokesman urged world public opinion to acquaint itself with this crime and to condemn it by all means.

Aircraft Attack Hawk Battery

JN181855 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Communique No 2,921 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 18 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With great efficiency, our valiant Armed Forces stand as an impregnable wall against the Khomeyniite aggressors, inflicting further losses on them. The results of their activities for last night and today are as follows:

1. To challenge the enemy's air defenses, the planes of our heroic Air Force carried out a successful raid on a surface-to-air Hawk battery east of Kermanshah [Bakhtaran] at 1630 [1330 GMT], destroying their targets. In performing this mission and in attacking enemy concentrations in the theaters of operation, our hawks flew 98 combat missions. They then returned safely to base, God be praised.

2. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector inflicted the following losses on the enemy:

a. One vehicle carrying a 106-mm gun was destroyed and its occupants killed.

b. One 107-mm rocket launcher and an SPG-90 gun were destroyed.

c. One large vehicle was burned and another vehicle damaged and their occupants killed.

d. Five scoundrels were killed and others injured.

e. Five infantry positions were destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up.

3. Six positions were destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, three vehicles, a one-barrel machinegun, and one heavy machinegun position were burned and destroyed.

5. Three vehicles, one machinegun position, and one infantry position were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. Our units in the VII Army Corps sector killed five enemy personnel and destroyed one vehicle, one post, and one infantry position. They also blew up an ammunition dump.

7. It is not strange for the Iranian regime, which attempted to encroach on Mecca, shelled mosques, and fired one of its missiles at a children's school, to attack a hospital. The Iranian rulers' moral degeneration, rancor against life, and criminal tendencies known to all the peoples of the world make such acts a picture of the Iranian rulers' rotten nature. At 1507 today the criminal enemy sent one of its planes to bomb the hospital in Dahuk. The enemy bombing martyred nine patients, including six women and one child. The enemy bombing also injured 64 patients in the hospital, including 10 children and 41 women.

This is Khomeyni's ultimate purpose, the old agent of Zionism, who feeds on nothing but crime. Undoubtedly, these acts reflect Khomeyni's ideological and practical defeat and expose his true nature—that of a charlatan, a liar, a despot, and a criminal. We urge world public opinion, which has known Khomeyni as a terrorist, to condemn this ugly crime. As for us, we know best how to punish these criminals. Our men's bombs will smash their heads and our men's feet will walk on their graves. Down with the humiliated, cowardly, liars. Paradise for our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 November 1987

Downing of Plane Denied

JN181826 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1807 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—Iraq has denied Iranian claims on downing an Iraqi plane today. A military spokesman told INA this evening that all the Iraqi aircraft which carried out missions today have returned safely to base. He said that these lies are one of the cheap means used by the Iranian regime to cover up its losses resulting from the Iraqi Air Force's destructive blows.

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN182154 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2144 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Statement by military spokesman dated 18 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic Air Force will continue to deal painful blows to the charlatan, evil, tyrannical ruling clique in Iran. At 2245 [1945 GMT] today, our planes launched a successful raid on a large maritime target near the Iranian coast. They scored an accurate and effective hit. Our planes then returned safely to the homeland. God be praised.

[Dated] 18 November 1987

Downing of 2 Planes Denied

JN190635 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0625 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied the Tehran radio announcement this morning about the downing of two Iraqi planes yesterday afternoon. In a statement to INA a short while ago, the spokesman said that all the Iraqi planes which

carried out their duties yesterday returned safely to base and none was downed. He said the Iranian claims are sheer lies by which they attempt to justify the heavy losses they sustain as a result of the Iraqi planes' successful blows dealt to the Iranians.

Iranian F-5 Shot Down

JN190805 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—The ground defenses in the Iraqi V Army Corps sector downed an Iranian Phantom F-5 plane at 0822 [0522 GMT] today. The plane crashed inside Iraqi territory. A military spokesman told INA today that this plane was one of two which the Iranian regime had sent to bomb residential areas in the district of 'Aqrah in northern Iraq. The spokesman said the other Iranian plane fled.

2d Iranian F-5 Downed

JN191029 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1002 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Statement by military spokesman dated 19 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We have said and reiterate that the ideal reply to the Iranian rulers' chatter and hollow buffoonery is balanced, strong, and resolute action. Almighty God wishes to expose them while they are uttering sheer lies, thereby blessing the struggle of the proud Iraqis and enabling them to achieve splendid victories.

At 1007 [0707 GMT] today, two enemy planes attempted to penetrate our international border in the heroic IV Army Corps sector. Our valiant air defense personnel in the sector confronted them. They downed one F-5 plane which fell and exploded opposite our positions in no-man's-land. It is the second plane downed by our defenses today. May God bless the heroic men of our air defenses. Praise be to God for this victory.

[Dated] 19 November 1987

2 'Maritime Targets' Attacked

JN191247 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1235 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Statement by military spokesman dated 19 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In affirmation of our firm and legitimate right to destroy the pillars of aggression and evil and to cut off the vital oil arteries which are exploited by the vile and wicked gang ruling in Tehran for its evil purposes, the planes of our daring Air Force simultaneously launched devastating raids on two maritime targets, one very large and the other large, near the Iranian coast at 1318 [1018 GMT] today, dealing accurate and effective blows. All our planes then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

[Dated] 19 November 1987

Peres Said Initiator of Minisummit Proposal
TA190754 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] In a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this week, President Husni Mubarak says that there is no alternative to the international peace conference, and that any attempt to distract attention from the conference hurts the chances for peace and sows despair and frustration. Our correspondent reports that King Husayn and senior political elements in Jerusalem this week expressed disappointment over U.S. inability to further the political process in the region. Jerusalem believes that at the moment there are only very slim chances of implementing George Shultz' proposal to use the Reagan-Gorbachev summit to launch negotiations between Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

We should start out by saying that the political plan identified with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was not conceived in Washington but rather in Jerusalem. It was Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres who approximately 3 months ago, proposed to Shultz' aide Charlie Hill to use the Reagan-Gorbachev summit for a dramatic move—to invite Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian representatives to Washington. It was only logical that Shultz, during his visit to the region, should present the plan as a U.S. formula.

Yesterday we learned more details regarding the move: Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir submitted to Shultz a list of seven demands, most of which deal with the Soviet participation. Then Minister Moshe Arens, who participated in the talks, added another condition: that a preliminary meeting be held between Gorbachev and Yitzhaq Shamir. Shamir insisted that the delegations to Washington be led by heads of state, or at least prime ministers, and not lower- ranking officials such as foreign ministers. Shamir also demanded that the Soviets not attend any negotiations session, but only the opening ceremony. In exchange for their participation in the opening ceremony, however, Moscow would be expected to permit the departure of Soviet Jews and to resume full diplomatic relations with Israel. The secretary of state did not take any position with regard to these demands. It transpires that initially King Husayn did not reject Shultz' proposal. Only after Moscow voiced a cool reaction did Husayn say that he did not accept the plan.

Incidentally, Shultz' formula has not been discussed so far by high-level U.S. and Soviet officials, but only by low-level ones. Speaking to Western diplomats this week, King Husayn expressed his anger over the U.S. Administration's inability to further the Middle East political process. Senior Labor Party officials also think that Shultz has not taken full advantage of the opportunity he had to facilitate the political contacts.

In another development, President Mubarak, in a letter to Prime Minister Shamir this week, entreats Israel to accept the idea of the international conference on the basis of the original formulation. Mubarak says that everyone agrees that the main thing is direct negotiations, but Israel cannot force upon Jordan the format for the talks. The status quo is dangerous and could cause an escalation in tension and violence. It also encourages radicalism and extremism in both camps. This is what the Egyptian president wrote in the week marking the 10th anniversary of President al-Sadat's historic move.

Peres Pledges No Compromise With Khomeyni
TA180924 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Nov 87 p 1

[Report by David Landau]

[Text] Vice Premier Shim'on Peres pledged last night that Israel would never compromise with Khomeyni's Iran.

"This is the message you must take back," Peres told visiting Egyptian statesman Mustafa Khalil at a dinner in his honour in Jerusalem.

"There is not a single Israeli that I am aware of who could compromise with Khomeyni...We cannot tolerate this militancy of hatred and backwardness," Peres said. He stressed that Israel's interests in resisting Iran were at one with those of the moderate Arab world. "We cannot imagine ourselves as an island of democracy and progress in an ocean of fundamentalism."

Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was sitting beside Khalil as Peres gave this undertaking.

At the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee yesterday, Rabin assured members that Israel was not supplying "a single nut or bolt" to Iran. Questioned closely by committee chairman Abba Eban (Labor), Rabin said he was referring to the Government of Israel and Israeli citizens acting on its behalf. He admitted that there might be arms dealers of foreign or dual nationalities who might still be trading with Tehran.

Beilin Comments on Peace Process, Irangate
TA181715 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Interview with Dr Yosi Beilin, Foreign Ministry political director general, by Gid'on Reicher on the "New Evening" program—live in the studio]

[Text] [Reicher] Today 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Jordanian court minister, disclosed that U.S. Secretary of State Shultz proposed that a meeting be held among Al-Asad, Husayn, and Shamir in Washington. This meeting was to be held in the presence of Reagan and Gorbachev during the summit conference that is scheduled to open there in

about 2 weeks. Dr Yosi Beilin, Foreign Ministry political director general, may be able to elucidate this matter for us. Do you or your colleagues know of such an appeal by the U.S. secretary of state?

[Beilin] I cannot relate to a specific appeal. I certainly can say that since the issue of negotiations with Israel, within the framework or after the opening of an international conference, was first raised by King Husayn exactly 3 years ago, there have been various attempts, particularly by the United States,to find another way to offer him direct negotiations, perhaps a return to the Geneva Conference with only the two superpowers. All sorts of suggestions have been raised during that period of time. King Husayn insisted on the international conference because of reasons of legitimization of a political process and so on. Up to now there has been no change in his position, nor in that of other Arab countries which are ready for this process.

[Reicher] So this is a very dramatic change. Al-Asad and Husayn are going to Washington. Gorbachev will be there too, along with Reagan, Shamir, and maybe Peres. Such a drama certainly should have come to your knowledge, or to that of Peres.

[Beilin] I repeat, there have been various proposals over the past few years. Nor do I see...

[Reicher, interrupting] And this could be just one of them?

[Beilin] It is a proposal that resembles some that have already been proposed and I cannot relate to this specific one. What I am saying is that it does not seem sensational to me. The fact was and remains, and we can rejoice or not, that for the moment the international conference has been and still is the only way to begin a peace process in our area.

[Reicher] But we have reached a very specific proposal. There is even a date for it to occur. Do you think that the current publicity will eliminate this possibility, in the event that it is realistically possible?

[Beilin] I do not think there is any possibility of an alternative process. Although I would be very happy if it were possible to immediately reach direct negotiations, or a sort of second Camp David. The question now is not whether we are going to an international or regional conference, a conference with Saudi Arabia, or a conference with the Soviet Union. The question is whether or not we are entering a peace process. A peace process at present, within the current framework, is an international conference. Whoever says no to an international conference should know that he is actually saying no to the peace process. If it does not happen now, it will mean a postponement of maybe 2 years, maybe for generations to come.

[Reicher] That is an argument that has been going on here for quite a few months. If, however, Shultz comes to us, as when he was here on his latest visit, and raises such a proposal, perhaps it would be worth asking you: If such a proposal was indeed raised, what was, for instance, Shamir's or Peres' reaction to it?

[Beilin] Look, from the viewpoint of, let us say, Peres—from the Foreign Ministry's viewpoint—any proposal that was raised and was acceptable to the other side would also be acceptable to him. Because he supports an international conference with the conditions to which he has agreed, any proposal—let us say, direct negotiations or something similar—would be acceptable to him. So there is no argument here. As for Mr Shamir, you should ask him.

[Reicher] The peace process at present is...[changes thought] Here and there, there is activity, but where does it stand?

[Beilin] Last week I accompanied President Herzog on his trip to the United States. I had the opportunity to meet with U.S. foreign policymakers and also with President Reagan personally. I would say this: They view the promotion of the peace process now, this very year, as being very important. However, it is not their first priority.

As far as they are concerned, the first priority is Afghanistan and maybe the Persian Gulf. If it had been possible to reach a settlement agreeable to each side, they would have taken a significant step to achieve it. To my joy, they will not make any move to impose anything on, or create any inconvenience for, Israel. For the time being that is the situation.

This week there are actually three interesting events. One is the talks by Deputy Secretary of State Whitehead in Moscow on the issue of human rights. The second is Max Kampelman's talks in Geneva on the issue of disarmament, and the third is the talks between Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Armacost and Soviet Deputy Minister Vorontzov on the matter of the regional processes. It may be possible that these processes will bring about the raising of regional issues, including ours, at the summit between Gorbachev and Reagan on 7 December. If not, it seems to me that we can expect a long period in which the issue of the peace process in our area is frozen. There may be some people who will be happy and others who will be very unhappy about that.

[Reicher] Dr Beilin, we cannot pass up the opportunity to ask you something. Today the 'Amiramgate ['Amiram Nir]—sorry, the Irangate report—was publicized, the report in which the minority claims that the Israeli version was not acceptable compared with that of Oliver North. As someone who is well-informed on this, what do you—that is, I would like to ask you whether the Americans are still bothering us on this matter?

[Beilin] The Americans are not bothering us on this because it was a joint action, common to them and us. There is no room for them to bother us and they have not bothered us. To my great joy, the claim that Israel did not act as it should have acted is being made by only a minority in the committee. The overwhelming majority of the committee—and not all of them are Israel's old friends—have come to the conclusion that our version is the truth. At a certain stage we were asked by the United States to cooperate in order to liberate hostages, and we did our part as we have in similar cases in the past.

[Reicher] We can say that senior Jerusalem political circles said on New Evening that they are pleased with the report publicized today.

[Beilin] You could say that.

Shahal Reveals Implications of Amman Summit

TA170930 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Nov 87 pp 1, 4

[Report by Sheli Yehimovich]

[Excerpt] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak told Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal that Saudi King Fahd was the one who encouraged him to strengthen the peace ties with Israel. Mubarak also told Shahal that other Arab leaders who had stood at the vanguard of the hostility toward Israel had supported and encouraged him behind the scenes to tighten the ties with Israel.

Shahal spoke at the Labor Party branch in Beersheba yesterday, and his lecture was crammed with revelations on the Israeli-Arab dispute.

Shahal also revealed that "it was Mubarak who, at the peak of the arguments over the arms shipments to Iran, said that Israel has made a mistake with those shipments."

Shahal related that in a conversation he had held with Mubarak, the Egyptian president added: "Despite this, I told my friends in Iraq, including President Saddam Husayn, that he must understand Israel and that Israel does not owe him anything." I commented to him that if he continues to declare that he will fight Israel on its eastern border, then he will have no right to complain about Israel." [no opening quotation marks as published]

On the Saudi position, Shahal said that Mubarak had told him: "You would be surprised to know which of the Arab heads of state encouraged me to continue to maintain the peace agreements with Israel."

Shahal asked whether he was referring to the prince of Oman, and Mubarak answered: "It was not a prince, but a king, and not one of your neighbors, but King Fahd of Saudi Arabia." Shahal said that to date 6 Arab countries had renewed relations with Egypt, and he believes that another 8 to 10 countries will follow suit within 2 weeks. He said that this move is of enormous significance, because it constitutes indirect recognition of the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt, and for the first time embassies of hostile Arab countries will stand beside the Israeli Embassy in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Khalil Urges International Conference

TA182049 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] It is a waste of time to try and convince Husayn and the Palestinians to go back on the Amman summit resolutions and hold direct negotiations with Israel instead, former Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil stated tonight in an address to the Peace Center forum in Tel Aviv. He also said that an international conference, which can be convened in the very near future, would not cause any damage to Israel or any other country. Our correspondent Gay Bekhor reports.

[Begin recording] [Bekhor] Is it possible, former Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil wondered tonight, that Husayn and the Palestinians would go back on a resolution very recently agreed upon and enter direct negotiations with Israel?

[Khalil, speaking in English] How King Husayn and the Palestinians, after really accepting the resolution in the last Arab summit of negotiating under an international conference, and being obligated to do that, would then come and say: We are going to change our position and try to pick up from where we stopped. I think that idea itself is not possible to apply. I think the idea itself means wasting time.

[Bekhor translates the above and continues] No harm would come to either Israel or the Arabs from convening an international peace conference, Khalil said, adding: I would be willing to assist with any peace process in the area, in spite of the fact that it has caused me a lot of trouble and harassment. To this very day there are threats to kill me, and I would like you to know that eight bodyguards still protect me at my residence 24 hours a day. [end recording]

Peres Departs on Official Visit to West Europe

TA181824 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres left Israel a short time ago on an official visit to several West European countries. Peres will visit Belgium, France, and Britain. Our correspondent 'Amos Har'el points out that the meeting Peres had been scheduled to hold prior to his departure with members of the Hungarian delegation currently visiting Israel was cancelled at the last minute.

Hungarian Economic Delegation Arrives 14 Nov

TA150908 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Nov 87 pp 1, 12

[Report by Gad Li'or; Hungarian names and titles as published]

[Text] A Hungarian economic delegation, the highest-ranking delegation from an East European country, except for Romania, to have visited Israel since the 6-Day War, arrived in Israel last night. The delegation members refused to answer reporters' questions.

Economic officials in Jerusalem expect that similar delegations from Poland, Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria will also visit Israel, following this delegation's lead.

The delegation's members arrived in Israel as guests of the Engineers and Architects Bureau and were received by Bureau Chairman Yitzhaq Raz. They include the chairman of the federation of engineers organizations in Hungary; Prof Janos Toth, a Hungarian National Assembly member; Andras Klazner, the head of the Hungarian agricultural organization and director of the national agricultural farms who holds a ministerial rank; Tibor Pal, the secretary of the engineers federation in Hungary; and a former Hungarian National Assembly member; and Dr Gabor Havani, the person in charge of foreign relations for Hungarian engineers.

The Hungarian delegation will remain in Israel for 10 days and will hold meetings with the heads of trade unions in the electricity, aeronautics, chemistry, and advanced technology industries.

The Hungarians will visit Israel Aircraft Industries facilities, a rare visit for a East European delegation. They will also tour the Israel Standards Institute, the Vulcani Institute, and the Dead Sea Works.

IDF Voices Reservations on Arrow SDI Project

TA171244 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Nov 87 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Tali Zelinger]

[Text] Senior IDF officers have voiced reservations about participating in the development of the "Arrow," a short- and medium-range antimissile missile, most of whose development the United States proposes to finance in the framework of "Star Wars."

In this context, the officers cited several wide-scale projects in the last decade which "spilled over" and detracted a larger part of the defense budget than had been slated for them.

Off the record, senior IDF officers say the budgetary as well as the military implications of such a large-scale project, which is bound to expand as its development proceeds, must be thoroughly examined.

U.S. Palestinian Activist Ordered To Leave

TA180926 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Nov 87 p 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] The Interior Ministry yesterday notified Palestinian non-violence activist Mubarak 'Awwad that he has to leave the country by Friday, following the rejection of his request to extend his tourist visa.

"I'm not leaving," 'Awwad said last night. "They'll have to force me out or put me in jail."

The Interior Ministry letter, which 'Awwad received yesterday, was dated October 30 and signed by Yosef Tov, deputy-director of the population registry at the Interior Ministry. It informed 'Awwad that his request for extension of his three-month tourist visa had been rejected and that he must leave the country by November 20, when his current visa expires. [passage omitted]

Despite the Interior Ministry decision, it is still unclear whether 'Awwad will in fact be deported at the end of the week. In contacts with U.S. diplomats, Israeli officials have said 'Awwad's case is still under review, and Foreign Ministry sources have said a way would be found to let him remain. U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering has expressed concern over the case.

Mozambique 'Not Natural Candidate' for Ties

TA161406 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Nov 87 p 3

[Report by political correspondent Dalia Shehori]

[Excerpt] Political sources in Jerusalem yesterday reacted to reports published in the United States on the imminent establishment of relations between Israel and Mozambique. According to the reports, these ties have been held up because of $1 million for the financing of a food processing plant that Israel has promised but has not yet transferred to Mozambique.

The sources said the delay in the establishment of relations was because "Mozambique is not a natural candidate" for relations with Israel. The sources pointed out that Mozambique is an extreme leftist Marxist country and as such is not "the prime candidate" among African countries for renewal of relations with Israel.

The sources confirmed that Israel runs economic projects in Mozambique, but they said that it is not the absence of $1 million that prevents the establishment of ties. Had the issue been solely financial, some solution to the problem would have been found. [passage omitted]

AL-SHA'B Editor Confined Under Town Arrest

TA171620 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Nov 87 pp 1, 12

[Text] Ramallah—The Israeli authorities have imposed town arrest on colleague Na'im al-Tubasi, an editor of *Al-Sha'b* and its correspondent in the Ramallah area, as well as a member of the board of the Arab Journalists Association in the occupied territories. The order confining Al-Tubasi to town arrest in Hebron for 6 months went into effect as of 26 October.

This order, signed by Commander of the Central Command 'Amiram Mitzna', says that Al-Tubasi is an important and active member of the "Fatah" movement and works to improve and develop the PLO's status in the occupied territories.

According to this order the authorities have banned colleague Al-Tubasi from leaving Hebron and entering his birthplace, the village of Al-Rihiyah. He is to present himself every Tuesday at the Hebron police station despite the fact the he and his family live in Ramallah.

Al-Tubasi has appealed for a court order transferring the town arrest to Ramallah, where he and his family reside, in view of the fact that he does not own a home in Hebron and is currently living in a hotel in the city.

In another development, the Arab Journalists Association in the occupied territories has condemned the order imposing town arrest on colleague Al-Tubasi and considered it an extension of a series of acts aimed at dealing blows to Palestinian journalists.

Communist MK's on PLO Demand To End Terrorism

TA180930 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Nov 87 p 4

[Report by Le'a Levavi]

[Text] The PLO will consider a cessation of hostilities against Israel when Israel makes a move towards peace, and when it agrees to the kind of international peace conference the PLO wants, MKs [Knesset Members] Me'ir Wilner and Tawfig Tubi said at a press conference here yesterday.

The two recently met with Yasir 'Arafat and other PLO leaders in Moscow, "but both sides agreed not to publish the joint communique until November 18, which is why we didn't reveal anything until now," said Wilner, who is secretary-general of the (Communist) Democratic Front for Peace and Equality.

The essence of the joint communique is that peace should be based on Israel's withdrawal to the June 1967 borders and that the territories should become a Palestinian state. The road to peace, both sides agreed, is via an international peace conference under UN auspices with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all the nations in the area, including Israel and the PLO.

"Can you imagine the Israeli Government saying that Israel and the PLO should participate? That would provide de facto recognition of the PLO, so if they are willing to include Israel in a joint communique, that is de facto recognition of Israel," Wilner said.

Tubi said that those who see the recent Amman summit as a sign that the Arab world is willing to neglect the Palestinians are living on illusions. "So are those who think Mr. Peres and King Hussayn can collude to destroy the Palestinians as a people. You may have noticed that when Secretary of State Shultz was here and wanted to meet with moderate Palestinians they wouldn't talk to him but told him to go talk to the PLO."

One reporter asked whether it wouldn't be in poor tastes if someone like 'Ezer Weizman met with 'Arafat while Defence Minister Rabin "continued to beat the residents mercilessly in the territories."

Wilner replied that he hadn't heard that Weizman or any other minister was ready to meet with 'Arafat; he said he knew nothing about a letter his party had reportedly passed on to the PLO or to the Kremlin requesting a meeting in Moscow between Labour representatives and the PLO.

"If any minister did want to meet with 'Arafat, I would consider it an important step forward," he said. "I'm glad we no longer have a monopoly on dialogue with the PLO. The Zionist opposition parties, and even some sources in the Labour Party, are beginning to move in that direction and it proves that our efforts have not been in vain.

"The PLO is stretching out a hand toward peace and if we take that hand instead of slapping it we will be serving Israel's own best interests," Wilner said.

Mubarak Arrives on 'Working Visit' 19 Nov

JN191034 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, arrived in Amman at noon today on a working visit to Jordan. His Majesty King Husayn led those who received the Egyptian president.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the chief chamberlain, ministers, the chief of staff of the Army, senior civilian and military officials, the Egyptian ambassador, the head of the diplomatic corps in Amman, and the ambassadors of Arab states which have restored diplomatic ties with the Arab Republic of Egypt. The two leaders inspected a guard of honor, a 21-gun salute was fired, and the national anthems of both countries were played.

Meets With Husayn

JN191229 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met at Al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon. The meeting was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. [passage omitted]

His Excellency President Mubarak is accompanied by a delegation comprising Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and a number of Egyptian officials.

Husayn Comments on Coordination With PLO

JN181901 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
17 Nov 87 pp 1, 7

[Excerpt] Amman—The PLO Executive Committee is scheduled to meet today under Yasir 'Arafat to discuss the PLO's reply to King Husayn's proposals on the bases for cooperation and coordination between the PLO and Jordan.

Al-Bayan has learned that the Jordanian monarch explained to 'Arafat, whom he met after the Amman summit, that Jordan is ready to resume coordination with the PLO if it recognizes UN Security Council Resolution 242, because the international situation does not permit any Jordanian-Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese joint political move on any other basis. King Husayn said that he does not deny any of the Palestinian people's rights such as self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. However, the Arab and international equations at present do not permit the attainment of these legitimate rights and objectives.

The king added that he welcomes the resumption of coordination with the PLO on the condition that it start at the point that the relationship between the two sides had reached and not from the beginning.

The Jordanian monarch concluded by saying he does not support the formation of new Jordanian-Palestinian joint committees to discuss this relationship, but rather asks the PLO to submit its final concept on this relationship. He said Jordan will have the right to reject, amend, or agree to this concept. He warned it may not be possible to convene an international peace conference at present while other circumstances might come about leading to a regional conference in which the Arab parties will participate with a Jordanian-Syrian- Palestinian-Lebanese joint delegation. [passage omitted]

Junblatt, Qansuh Leave for Damascus 18 Nov
NC181833 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Excerpt] The security problems affecting West Beirut and the political confusion involving members of the Liberation and Unification Front prompted Damascus to summon Minister Walid Junblatt and 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, today. They were joined by Minister Nabih Birri, who has been in Damascus for the last 2 days. [passage omitted]

Iranian Envoy Meets Al-Huss, Cuban Counterpart
LD181048 Tehran IRNA in English 0740 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Beirut, Nov. 18, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Beirut Ahmad Dastmalchiyan in a meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss here Tuesday submitted a congratulatory message of Iran's foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the occasion of the Lebanese national day. Issues related to bilateral relations and regional affairs were discussed in the meeting.

On the recently concluded Amman Arab summit, Al-Huss said it did nothing to solve political and economic problems of Lebanon.

Commenting on the same subject, the Iranian diplomat said that the participants, by ignoring hostility towards the Zionist regime and getting close to Egypt, betrayed the Palestinian cause. Furthermore, he added, under the U.S. pressure the participants attempted to exert more pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Referring to Iran's stance on the Iraqi-imposed war and readiness of the Iranian nation to end the war, he said that the Iranians will accept nothing but defeating the aggressor.

Meanwhile the Iranian ambassador met with the new Cuban ambassador to Beirut and exchanged views on regional issues and U.S. aggression in the Persian Gulf.

The Cuban diplomat said that security of the countries of the region and freedom of navigation will be achieved only through withdrawal of the American forces from the Persian Gulf. The regional security, he stressed must be attained by the countries of the region. The Cuban ambassador urged all non-aligned and progressive countries of the region to press the U.S. to withdraw its forces from the region.

Gulf State Opposition Groups To Meet in Beirut
NC181707 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 16 Nov 87 p 7

[Text] Opposition Islamic groups in a number of Arab Gulf states will hold a secret conference in the southern suburb [of Beirut] during November. The groups will coordinate among themselves to confront the situation in their countries in the wake of Iran's threats to carry the fighting to those Arab countries which assist Iraq in the Gulf war.

It is worth noting that upon Tehran's request, certain groups of these opposition Islamic forces took part in the demonstrations that kindled the Mecca events during the pilgrimage season.

Airport Bomb Carrier Had Hizballah Ties
NC181855 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Judicial sources have revealed that preliminary investigations into the Beirut Airport explosion have disclosed that Thurayya Kamal Sahyun, who carried the booby-trapped bag, had connections with various parties and political organizations, particularly Hizballah. The sources added that Thurayya Sahyun was instructed to deliver the bag to certain persons in the airport. However, when she aroused the suspicions of security men, the bag was blown up from a distance. This, according to the sources, indicates that Thurayya Sahyun was under close surveillance by people who wanted to know whether her mission would be carried out as planned.

Ba'th Organization on Reasons To Leave ULF
NC191233 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 18 Nov 87 p 4

[Excerpt] The Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization has stated that "the Lebanese crisis is in fact neither an Arab, European, nor U.S. preoccupation. It is only a Syrian one, and only Al-Asad's Syria is trying to save Lebanon from its impasse and to bring about peace and reconciliation to its territory."

The party's Regional Command members, who met yesterday under the chairmanship of Eng 'Asim Qansuh, the regional secretary, discussed developments and issued a statement on the reasons for the organization's withdrawal from the Unification and Liberation Front [ULF]. The statement noted the following:

1. We would like to emphasize our adherence to the Front's charter. We do not object in any way to its goals.
2. We reject any bilateral formulas within the Front by any party whatsoever.
3. We note the lack of seriousness on the part of some of the parties in the front to shoulder their responsibilities.
4. Our comrade communists continuously criticize the Front, but do not effectively contribute to its activities.
5. The Front has failed to decisively handle the issue of upgrading the Lebanese national resistance and to support it in a bid to complete the drive for the liberation of the south.
6. We absolutely reject the creation of new axes to serve

the interests of this or that regime, be it the Algerian or the Libyan regime. We believe that any nationalist, progressive, or revolutionary trend that does not conform to the Arab Syrian initiative or that is not fully coordinated with Syria will only create new obstacles in the face of our national front.

7. We would like to stress that the artless and flagrant maneuvering that went on to drop our speech at the Concorde celebrations [marking the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution] has only increased our determination to further bolster our relations with the Soviet Union, the sole friend of the Arabs. Our party cherishes the first socialist revolution in the world, and any attempts by parties to keep the feelings of friendship [toward the Soviet Union] only for themselves or to monopolize them will be of no avail.
8. We would like to reaffirm that our decision to withdraw from the ULF does not arise out of wanting to create a new axis, but rather out of our eagerness to push the national drive forward.

The statement also condemned the recent events in Sidon and stressed "the need to mobilize all forces to save Lebanon, under the framework of the strategic alliance between Al-Asad's Syria and the Lebanese and Palestinian nationalist forces." [passage omitted]

Palestinian-Nasirite Agreement Reached 18 Nov

NC181946 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] A Palestinian source has told the Voice of Lebanon that an agreement has been reached with Mustafa Sa'd, head of the Sidon militia organization, on a series of measures. Some of these measures went into effect this afternoon and the rest will be completed within the next 48 hours.

The same source noted that two meetings were held at Sa'd's residence today, attended by key figures from Sidon and a Palestinian delegation led by Abu 'Ali 'Isam, a representative of Yasir 'Arafat. The source affirmed that the Palestinian show of force has ended. It was also agreed to allow Sa'd's personnel to regain the positions they lost during the Nasirite-Palestinian clashes.

Amal's Hamiyah Examines Security Issues

NC181237 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 16 Nov 87 pp 18-20

[Interview with 'Aql Hamiyah, official in charge of the Amal Movement's Military Department, by Muhammad Muhyi al-Din and Nabil Braks; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Several military organizations, including the regular Army, Army partisans, the militia forces, and security organs, have recently cropped up within the Amal Movement ranks. Being the Amal Movement's central military official, how do you explain the existence of these various military and security organs?

[Hamiyah] Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 constituted an important turning point in the course of the Amal Movement's military action. This transformation was dictated by several political and security factors in Lebanon and the region. The occupation of the entire south, Beirut, western Al-Biqa', and part of the mountain had placed the option of confrontation before the Amal Movement because the plot had taken a serious turn after the departure of the Palestinian resistance. This situation dictated that we fill the vacuum after the Israeli factor entered the center of Lebanese politics.

Thus, the Amal Movement became the basic party confronting the occupation and its domestic hazards, given the absence of any Lebanese military organ. All of these factors dictated that the Amal Movement develop its military entity in light of two experiences: the first aimed at building a military body according to the methods adopted since the birth of the Movement to establish decentralized groups and regional militia. Developments after 1982 and the uprisings of 28 August 1983 and 6 March 1984 necessitated the formation of semi-centralized groups. Within this framework, we can understand the developments that necessitated the modernization of the military entity and action to cope with the Movement's military role and the required tasks of confronting the Israeli enemy in the occupied area.

Thus, I do not see the existence of manifold military organizations within Amal. There are regular forces that dictated the development, organization, and promotion of the militia as is happening in the south, where circumstances made it necessary to deploy the "Army Partisans," who originally belonged to the Lebanese Army's 6th Brigade. We reject the idea of multiple armies, because it signifies a sense of partition, which could lead to the partition of the homeland.

[Question] In your opinion, does not "The Regular Army," which mans the Amal Movement checkpoints in the south, particularly the coastal road from Al-Ghaziyah to Tyre, lead to multiplicity?

[Hamiyah] There is no fear that this will happen.

[Question] Last September, you abruptly made moves to implement what was called at the time "a security plan for the southern suburb." You and other Amal Movement leaders visited Damascus in this connection. You also sent a number of patrols into the streets of the southern suburb. After this, everything came to a standstill. What was the reason for this plan and why did it stop? Is there a new plan for the suburb?

[Hamiyah] After the Amal Movement launched the initiative to end the camps war on 30 August 1987, we implemented security measures in the suburb in keeping with the political guidelines of the initiative. The Palestinian side's procrastination prompted us to adjourn the plan. The Amal Movement is serious about working out a security formula to rectify the conditions that harm citizens who are the victims of the fierce economic onslaught.

[Question] There are people who expect a certain arrangement in the suburb soon. When will its implementation begin and will another party join you?

[Hamiyah] At the beginning, our objective was to curb the people who disturbed security in the suburb. Through this plan, we wanted to make these offenders understand that tampering with the suburb's security was not allowed. Some of them have understood, as manifested in the diminishing state of chaos. We admit that there are some gaps, but they are too minor to mention in comparison with what happens in other areas. We consider the suburb a safe oasis of peace for all people. The elite of the strugglers live there. They will never harm the suburb because they defended the south and the people's dignity. Certain people exaggerate things and say that certain fighters have turned into troublemakers. This is exaggeration because those who defended people cannot harm them.

[Question] Is Hizballah still opposed to the implementation of the security plan in the suburb?

[Hamiyah] Our people's interests are above any consideration.

[Question] Are the Syrian forces expected to assume a security role in the suburb in the near future?

[Hamiyah] The entry of the Syrian forces into the suburb is a political decision which has regional and international dimensions. It also is a matter that concerns the Syrians themselves. When they make a decision, I do not believe they will consult us as it is subject to their own interests.

[Question] So, there is nothing new within this context at present?

[Hamiyah] I do not foresee any reason for such a measure. We in the Movement are seeking to strengthen the organizational and security leadership that exist in the region.

[Question] Do you sense any obstruction by Hizballah?

[Hamiyah] Our relations with Hizballah are good. We are holding constant consultations with it over many issues.

[Question] What about the views of some of the [Hizballah] Party leaders in the wake of the declared security plan in the suburb?

[Hamiyah] We have not contacted them on this issue and have not discerned any practical objections.

[Question] Do you believe that the camps war will enter a new round?

[Hamiyah] The camps war began on the direct orders of the Americans following our peoples' victory in Beirut and the south. It was intended to strike at these accomplishments. We have witnessed several episodes of this dirty war in the past few weeks, especially after Richard Murphy's tour of the region and President Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to Egypt.

One of the results of the meetings in Baghdad between the leaders of the Lebanese Forces and Yasir 'Arafat was attacks by the Palestinians last month on the villages of Baysur, Al-Mharbiyah, and Jinsnaya in eastern Sidon. These provocations are a continuation of the camps war. I believe that such acts will continue specifically in the south. However, we are adhering to the Movement's stand which rejects this seditious war. In accordance with this stand, we will work for a unified view and a harmonious effort in confronting the Zionist enemy.

[Question] What has become of Minister Nabih Birri's initiative to halt the camps war?

[Hamiyah] In my view, this initiative will not succeed because the Palestinians have neither the desire to implement it nor the desire to halt the camps war. As far as we are concerned, we divide the Palestinians into two groups: a group supporting Husni Mubarak, Amin al-Jumayyil, and Yasir 'Arafat, the "Camp David group"; and a group advocating the option of Arab resistance. However, we see that the 'Arafat group is the strongest of the various Palestinian groups as the others do not have any control despite their distinguished efforts.

These groups were dragged into the battles alongside Abu 'Ammar in order to preserve their positions. We believe that these factions are demanding a serious and practical stand after the experience in Baysur and Al-Mharbiyah. They will have to evacuate the two towns in order to convince us that a Palestinian faction exists that truly wants this war to end and wishes to implement Movement leader Brother Nabih Birri's initiative. We are cognizant of the fact that Israel and its agents are determined to help prolong this seditious war because of the opportunity it gives them to remain in the south and inside Lebanon to strike at our people's accomplishments.

[Question] There are Arab and international forces which view Birri's initiative as a possible move. The move of the Soviet ambassador in Beirut in this respect

is obvious. Do you believe that any Palestinian group will work toward implementing the initiative despite opposition by what you call the 'Arafatists?

[Hamiyah] I do not believe so. The Palestinians do not use their arms against each other unless for reasons of their own and not for any other cause. It is obvious that they will not clash among themselves in order to make Amal's initiative succeed.

[Question] Even if its implementation was for their benefit?

[Hamiyah] Yes. It is regrettable that instead of calming the situation, the Palestinian National Salvation Front is doing just the opposite on many occasions. In effect, it is marketing Yasir 'Arafat's ideas.

[Question] How serious are the parties within the Unification and Liberation Front in supporting the Amal Movement's efforts to prevent any expansion of the camps war?

[Hamiyah] We hope that the members of the Front will be serious this time in supporting the Movement's endeavor to end the sedition and in pressuring their Palestinian allies to halt this war.

[Question] Do you believe that the "Unification and Liberation Front" is capable of surviving, especially as some of its members are calling for the establishment of a "real national front"?

[Hamiyah] The founders of the Front who mourned its death are more aware of its situation and role.

[Question] What is your position regarding the establishment of "the civil administration"?

[Hamiyah] Imam Musa al-Sadr had warned against "the civil administration," and the Amal Movement has fought to prevent its establishment since before the [Israeli] invasion. In our view, it leads to partition. The Amal Movement, therefore, rejects the establishment of this administration in any part of Lebanon. However, we support the establishment of popular committees to organize the people's living conditions. [passage omitted]

[Question] There are impending deadlines, and the preliminaries of the presidential election campaign have begun.

[Hamiyah] I do not believe that the presidential elections will take place unless Amin al-Jumayyil and Samir Ja'ja' agree to share the areas under their control. The election of the Chamber of Deputies speaker was a test for them. I believe that they might resort to negative measures to cause a constitutional vacuum so that Amin al-Jumayyil can stay as a de facto president. We, therefore, believe that salvation can only come through the invasion of all Lebanon by a strong state. The country can then be handed over to a Lebanese group that truly desires Lebanon's unity. I believe this is a sound solution. [passage omitted]

[Question] There are some who accuse the Amal Movement of practicing extortion and collecting protection money. How true are these accusations?

[Hamiyah] Like other areas, the southern suburb lives under the influence of a pressing economic and social situation. The Movement's members are no angels. They have wishes and desires. This exists in the biggest armies. Mistakes are made, and we are trying very hard to bring the situation under control. [passage omitted]

[Question] The Amal Movement has recently experienced a process of reorganization and appointments, particularly at the leadership level. Is it to correct an existing defect or to establish a more effective system?

[Hamiyah] Since 1985, the Movement has passed through circumstances—including the Maghdushah and West Beirut wars—which dictated the adoption of organizational measures to ensure the Movement's integrity and to remove any blemishes in its organizational structure. For these reasons, a number of organizational decisions have been made. These decisions were also made because of vacancies in a number of central and regional leadership positions. Some officials were transferred from one region to another or from one position to another as a result. [passage omitted]

[Question] Were there political reasons for these appointments?

[Hamiyah] No. [passage omitted]

[Question] Security measures have recently been implemented in West Beirut. The people have begun to think that something of an unknown nature is about to happen. What is happening, and have you noticed anything?

[Hamiyah] Some people were seeking to rekindle the camps war in order to reshuffle the cards to embarrass the Syrians close to the Arab summit.

[Question] Do you have any information about the recent explosions in West Beirut?

[Hamiyah] In fact, all of the people have returned to Beirut. According to our security experience, the Syrians allow the offenders to continue their actions up to a point and then they strike. In other words, the Syrians place them under surveillance. This is the method of the comfortable tiger, who sits quietly and then strikes.

[Question] Are you concerned about the stability of the security in West Beirut?

[Hamiyah] There is no fear under the umbrella of the Syrian forces. Security incidents, such as planting dynamite sticks in garbage dumps, could take place, as is the case now. However, nothing more significant could happen.

[Question] What is the purpose and implication of the Palestinian expansion to Al-Mharbiyah and Baysur?

[Hamiyah] This expansion is in a southerly direction. It is part of a new American plan to bring the Palestinians in contact with the Israeli forces in order to justify a new Israeli invasion. The return of the Palestinians to the south and the threat they pose to the security of Galilee would be used as an excuse. [passage omitted]

[Question] There is talk about efforts to strengthen security in and around Sidon in preparation for the repumping of Saudi oil through the Tapline to Al-Zahrani. Do you believe that this is imminent?

[Hamiyah] Do you not believe that in the present situation Lebanon can become another Gulf? [passage omitted]

Views Reasons for Resignation

NC181523 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 16 Nov 87 p 22

[Interview with 'Aql Hamiyah, official in charge of the Amal Movement's Military Department, by Mustafa Mahmud; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Mahmud] What do you hold against the Amal Movement's leadership at present?

[Hamiyah] Having withdrawn from the contact lines, Amal members found no institutions to bring them together. Except for the mosques, which are designed to host all the faithful and honest people and not to graduate cadres, thank God, there are no sports clubs or cultural centers. The majority of officials curse darkness, yet move no muscle to light a candle. We now need to cooperate with small groups of individuals, and not with large groups. Unfortunately, the Movement's original cadres have been martyred or have bled to death in battles imposed on them. A large percentage of them were martyred in the camps war, which we hope to end. Yet this is difficult to do because, in my view, 'Arafat's mentality has not changed. [passage omitted]

[Mahmud] Specifically, why did you resign?

[Hamiyah] The living conditions in the various areas, especially in the southern suburb, make it incumbent upon Movement officials to provide flour, fuel, and medicine one way or another. They are committed to doing that. This was the only reason for my resignation letter, which was later torn up by Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan [Ja'farite Mufti]. We accepted this because he is our father and guide. There was no other reason. [passage omitted]

[Mahmud] Iran has proposed that a joint operation room be established under its supervision. You were the first to reject that.

[Hamiyah] If we had rejected it, all those heroic operations carried out by the Islamic resistance would not have been able to succeed. Our mujahidin have recorded the greatest epics in Jabal Safi and Tallat al-Huqban. I would like to note here that I support Hizballah's actions in the south, in order to prevent the exclusive presence of one type of resistance there. [passage omitted]

[Mahmud] What is the truth underlying your difference with the leader of the Amal Movement.

[Hamiyah] Differences between the two of us are nothing more than those of views and organizational concepts. We, as military people, are an essential part of the Movement. For example, the Movement leader and an accompanying delegation went to Algiers and returned to Beirut. He started to implement his agreement with the Palestinians without informing the military official or the fighters about this move. My view is that military men should not only have to fight battles and sacrifice their lives. They also need to be informed about political issues like those discussed in Algiers and other places. We were surprised to see shipments of cement and iron entering the camps. We had no knowledge about this. [passage omitted]

I am against unilateral decisionmaking within the Movement, as this is bound to lead it to a catastrophe.

[Mahmud] It is believed that one of the reasons behind your difference with the Movement's leader is that you opened direct channels with the Iranians.

[Hamiyah] The Movement was established by Imam Musa al-Sadr in the Iranian city of Qom. The movement's military action was initiated by Martyr Dr Mustafa Shamran, the Islamic Republic's defense minister. We do not say that Amal is Iranian, but we are committed to the course of Imam al-Sadr and Imam al-Khomeyni. This does not mean that we conclude financial deals with Iran. We are linked to Iran by religious ties.

Afghanistan

Foreign Minister's Statement to UN Session

LD182248 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0430 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Kabul, November 17, *Bakhtar*—'Abdul Wakil minister of foreign affairs of the DRA in a statement at the forty second session of the UN General Assembly said that the goals pursued by the United States through financing and continuing the undeclared war against the DRA, are quite clear:

Preserving tension in the vicinity of the frontiers of the Soviet Union and, in their own words, keeping the Soviets busy in Afghanistan, dissemination of anti-Soviet propaganda concerning the situation in and around Afghanistan and the presence of the limited Soviet military contingent there, under the pretext of the existing tension around Afghanistan, transforming Pakistan into its strategic springboard in South West Asia, in the interest of the rapid deployment force in the Gulf region, making use of the Pakistani forces and launching endeavours towards the revival of military pacts similar to those of CENTO and SEATO.

The United States through arming Pakistan to the teeth, he said, as well as equipping and arming the Afghan armed opponent groups and rendering great assistance to the Zionist state of Israel, tries to stand, on the one hand, in so-called defence of Islam, and on the other, in opposition to it, and thus to establish a balance toward this end.

At present, over 120 camps exist in the territory of Pakistan, for training, equipping, and arming the Afghan armed opponents wherein the military and secret-service advisers, experts and instructors of the United States, Israel, Pakistan and other Western countries teach the methods of murder, terror and repression to the extremist opponents.

Pakistani regime derives wide political and propaganda benefits, particularly for cementing its shaky bases and for its endeavours to divert the attention of the people of Pakistan from their own demands and wishes in various spheres to the so-called Afghan problem. Meanwhile, Pakistan has received great sums as military-economic aid from the United States and its allies, such as Saudi Arabia, and has modernized the Pakistani Army by purchasing sophisticated weapons.

As we know, the United States, during the time of the Carter administration, which had launched a covert war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, offered 400 million dollars as military assistance to Pakistan. Later on, Pakistan received a package of 3.2 billion dollars for a five-year period on the basis of the agreement concluded in 1982.

Following this, Washington signed with Islamabad another contract on military-economic aid package at the tune of 4.02 billion dollars for the coming six years. Moreover, the selling or leasing of AWACS reconnaissance planes to Pakistan are on the agenda.

Based on the press reports, quoting the Washington sources, almost half of the four billion dollars, which have been allocated through Pakistan for the Afghan extremists to finance the undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, ended in the pockets of the Pakistani rulers.

Repeated violations, aggressions and armed encroachments, including repeated violations of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan airspace by Pakistan, leave no credit for Islamabad authorities in regard to international law and norms of interstate relations. In this connection, we can cite the incident when an F-16 Pakistani aircraft, which violated the Afghan airspace, was shot down by the Afghan Air Force during the current year.

The leadership of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is convinced that the only way for ending the all-out fratricidal war in Afghanistan, which has been continuing for the past nine years, and for the immediate normalization of the situation around Afghanistan, leads through the realization of national reconciliation policy inside the country and the successful conclusion of the Geneva talks.

It is surprising that, since we have launched the far-reaching invitation for national reconciliation, the assistance of the United States and its allies to the Afghan extremists has doubled. The United States alone has increased its financial assistance since then from 500 million dollars to 600 million dollars which would soon reach 1,000 million dollars. The number of Stinger missiles delivered to the extremists which are being used to shoot down planes carrying innocent passengers have increased from 60 to 600 units. These are in addition to the British-made Blowpipe missiles. So far, over 160 persons, including 22 children and 16 women, have been burnt in the flames of the downed aircraft. Recently, the extremists have committed another abhorrent crime by exploding a bomb in Kabul city, as a result of which 27 persons were killed and 30 others were seriously injured.

Mr. President, under the political pressure of the United States, Pakistan prolongs the achievement of a final solution to the situation around Afghanistan at the Geneva talks notwithstanding the principled flexibility shown and possible concessions made by the DRA.

As far as it concerns the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, we have always striven at the Geneva talks, by setting forth new and concrete proposals and initiatives, to take a constructive and flexible position towards reaching an immediate political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. It was due to our flexibility that at

the last round of the talks, the gap between the positions of the two sides narrowed significantly. We should state that the Geneva talks could have proceeded with a more rapid pace, had the government of Pakistan not refrained from direct talks with the participation of personal representative of the United Nations secretary-general.

The Pakistani side states that it does not recognize the regime in our country. This is glossing over the existing realities. It should be stated in this regard that the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan does not actually need such a recognition. But it is worth mentioning that there are numerous examples in world history that even countries at war with each other have still resorted to direct talks. On the other hand, diplomatic relations do exist between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan and, right now, 48 Pakistani diplomats are stationed in their embassy and two consulates in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and 31 Afghan diplomats in our embassy and 3 consulates in Pakistan.

It is not that the acts of the United States, Pakistan and their allies fully contravene with the provision of Paragraph 4, Article 11 of the United Nations Charter and the United Nations Declaration of 1970 on the Principles of International Law? This declaration states, inter alia,: "...No state or groups of states has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatever, in the internal or external affairs of any other state...Also, no state shall organize, assist, foment, finance, incite or [word indistinct] subversive, terrorist or armed activities directed towards the violent overthrow of the regime of another state, or interfere in civil strife in another state..."

Afghanistan, under this generally recognized principle of international law, has the right to seek the protection of this assembly for its cause in accordance with the objectives and principles of the United Nations Charter. The violations of these principles in regard to the revolution of Afghanistan are nothing but aggression, 'Abdul Wakil said.

Mr. President, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the state of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, in order to put an end to such interference and naked aggressions and to stop the great tragedy of the war while carrying on the Geneva talks, has declared the policy of national reconciliation.

We have offered reconciliation to our Afghans and have called upon them wherever in the world they live to return to their homeland with honour.

In the political, economic and local administrations, they shall enjoy equal rights with all other nationals of Afghanistan. Under the newly-promulgated law on the activities of political parties and the law of the press, they can have their own political parties and independent publications.

We have sufficient reasons to claim that the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation deprived the opponents of their main, most publicized and fallacious slogans. Now there is no place for the demagogic utterances of the opposition that Afghanistan has been occupied by the Soviet Union and Islam has been endangered there. The people realize more and more who are their friends and who are their enemies.

The yearly statements by the minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan in this assembly, which, along with the BBC and the Voice of America make assertions about the so-called danger to the sacred religion of Islam in Afghanistan and threat to the culture and traditions of the people of our country as well as the allegation that an alien system and ideology has been imposed on our people, are totally baseless and far from the truth said 'Abdul Wakil.

Until now, 90,000 people have repatriated from camps located in Pakistan and Iran. This figure could have been much more larger, had it not been for hinderances put up by the Pakistani and Iranian military guards, for 80 percent of the refugees are willing to return home. Thirty thousand people from 174 armed groups have joined the people's power and together with them more than 100,000 persons have resumed a peaceful life.

Until now 7,849 people from the other side have been elected in the local organs of state power and administration. More than 6,000 former opposition individuals as well as repatriates are working as members of the national reconciliation commissions and 361 people from the ex-ringleaders of opponent armed groups as chiefs and secretaries of the executive committees of state organs at different levels.

I clearly stress in this assembly that the time has come for Pakistan to realize the consequences of pursuing her policy and understand that she can no longer withstand the successive and powerful waves of peace, compromise, reconciliation and re-patriation of refugees, inside the Pakistan society and the international public. Pakistan cannot protract the war and tragedy any longer, for this does not benefit the people of Pakistan themselves. Continuous political and communal unrests and the mounting opposition of tribes to the presence of Afghan refugees, the strong pressure exerted by the Pakistani political parties and organisation for the speediest solution of the issue around Afghanistan, are evidences which have brought to the notice of Pakistani nation the fact that one cannot remin unaffected from the fire afflamed inside a neighbour's house.

In order to remove the obstacles created by our neighboring countries on the return of the refugees and to provide necessary facilities for them, the Afghan side has requested the Pakistani and Iranian authorities to pave the grounds for the safe return of the refugees.

Notes have been sent to the Pakistani and Iranian authorities for securing permission for charter flights to Islamabad and Tehran to transport the Afghan refugees to their country. These authorities have shown lack of interest in this matter.

In continuation of its policy of terror and suppression against Afghans residing in that country, specially following the declaration of the policy of national reconciliation, when most of the Afghan refugees decided to return home, the government of Pakistan recently arrested some of them and have handed them over together with their families to the extremist terrorist groups to be sentenced to various inhuman punishments, including death.

This type of behaviour by a country claiming to be independent and sovereign and one which allows an extremist group to sentence to death the citizens of an independent country, obviously runs counter to accepted international norms and customs of civilized humanity. These acts are conducted in order to mislead the public opinion in Pakistan to substantiate the baseless allegations that a group of Afghans are responsible for all the unrests in Pakistan, and thus by sentencing to death they could consider the case closed.

We would like to draw the serious attention of the Human Rights Commission, the United Nations high commissioner for refugees and all the peace- and justice-loving humanity to these acts which are contrary to the dignity of humanity and norms of justice and to all accepted international norms and principles. We protest over these acts and ask the Pakistani Government to act as a civilized state and refrain from acts which hurt the conscience of humanity, said the minister of foreign affairs.

It is for five years now that the minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan, in the sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations speaks of the so-called occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet forces and of the need for their earliest return, and pretends that the most important question in the process of the political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan and in Geneva talks is the question of the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan. Pakistan, however, knows very well that this does not conform with facts, and that the real question and the pressing issue at the Geneva talks is the cessation of interference in the internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, he pointed out.

It is not accidential that the virtually completed document which both sides agreed to discuss first, was the agreement on the principles of mutual relations, particularly on non-interference and non-intervention.

I don't think there is any doubt left about the fact that the Soviet Union would really leave under a logical time frame in case the interference is ceased and reliable guarantees are given for their non-resumption.

The return of six regiments of the limited military contingent of the Soviet Union in October 1986 is a clear indication of our sincerity in words and deeds.

The limited Soviet military contingent came to the country at the request of the legal government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in conformity with Article 4 of the treaty of friendship, co-operation and good-neighbourliness between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, dated 5 December 1978, and with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, in order to help in rebuffing foreign aggression and interference which threatened the independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country. Therefore, the reasons for their entry, as well as circumstances of their return are vividly clear, Wakil noted.

As the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan declared in the beginning of the forty-second session of the General Assembly, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is ready to participate in drafting a resolution which would assist in the speedy solution of the situation around Afghanistan. We are declaring today that we are ready to support a resolution on the issue of Afghanistan with partial amendments and would sincerely co-operate in its unanimous acceptance by the members of this assembly. Without any doubt, this resolution would be sound and would have more practical aspects and have an effective role in this regard.

We would like to appeal to all those countries which desire the speedy solution of the situation around Afghanistan and an end to the devastating and destructive war in Afghanistan, unanimously to lend their support and cast their positive vote for the draft amendments proposed by the Syrian Arab Republic and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, which would not make it much different from the original version.

As it is clear to every one the previous debates on Afghanistan in the General Assembly and the adoption of one-sided resolution sponsored by Pakistan, have not had even slightest impact on establishing peace in our region and had lacked practicable character. There is no reason for the United States and Pakistan to oppose these amendments which would correct and complement the original draft resolution. Otherwise, this will mean a demonstration of their open opposition to the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan and the distinguished representatives in the world body shall become profoundly aware of their intentions. We need peace and, therefore, we support a resolution which would herald peace for our people.

For the elimination of regional and world tension, common sense and political insight calls for the representatives of member countries to co-operate with the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union for removing tension in the region and for the cessation

of interference in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Pakistan, the United States and their allies should not be allowed to misuse the decisions of this great assembly of the world community, for furthering their ill-intentioned aims.

We are opposed to the draft resolution introduced by Pakistan which is completely impracticable and is in contradiction to Paragraph 7 of Article 2 of the United Nations Charter and is a brazen interference in the internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, and shall vote against it. If adopted this resolution would be void of any legal and moral value and shall not be binding on the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, said the minister of foreign affairs of the DRA.

Gulabzoy Speaks to Konduz Defense Council

LD180026 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1530 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] An activists session of the people's militia command of Konduz Province has been held in the command conference hall.

Bakhtar reports...[break in transmission] attended by Comrade Lieutenant General Gulabzoy, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and minister of internal affairs. He discussed the resolutions of the PDPA second national conference and specified the duties of the people's militia in this province to follow the national reconciliation policy and create conditions for peaceful work.

According to another report, Comrade Gulabzoy today opened the Konduz Province People's Militia Command museum of honor.

According to another report, the Takhar Province Defense Council held a session today in Taloqan to assess its work and activities to expand and consolidate national sovereignty, conscription, and call-ups.

At this session, after the secretary of the Takhar provincial party committee presented a report on the work and activities of this council, Comrade Lt Gen Gulabzoy, minister of internal affairs, assessed the work and activities of this council, and specified the direction of work for its members in light of the documents and resolutions of the PDPA second national conference.

According to another report, Comrade Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy attended the Konduz Province Defense Council session this afternoon. He laid out the responsibilities and duties of those attending the session to broaden and consolidate government authority and implement the council's complex plan.

Speaking on behalf of the members of the Konduz Province Defense Council, the Konduz Province PDPA Committee deputy secretary presented a report on the work and activities of this council and promised that Konduz Province will be named a peace zone by the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution.

Bangladesh

Ershad on 'United Resistance' Against Anarchy

BK191052 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] President Ershad has called for building up a united resistance by all peace-loving citizens against anarchy and indiscipline. He was addressing traders and transport owners at Banga Bhavan in Dhaka yesterday. The president said time has come to raise their voice against them who are trying to undermine social peace, as well as economic growth of the nation. The peace citizens cannot give up their rights in the face of anarchy and indiscipline and in the interest of the well being of the nation.

About the programs given by some political parties during the last few days, he said if the people bow down to anarchy and terrorism of a handful of people, it will become a tradition in coming days.

The president held with satisfaction that rickshaws, autorickshaws, autotempos, minibuses, and buses plied in the roads despite bomb attacks by miscreants during the so-called program hours. He said (?as) social beings, it is our responsibility to look after our own security against terrorism. At the same time, the administration will also make all out efforts to provide security to the peace-loving citizens.

President Ershad said his government is a democratically and constitutionally elected government. Elections as embodied in the constitution, are the only means for any change of government.

Deputy Prime Minister M.A. Matin also spoke on the occasion.

Later, addressing the ward commissioners of the Dhaka municipal corporation, President Ershad said strong resistance would have to be put up against anarchy and indiscipline so that the nation can carry forward the gains of development achieved during the last 6 years. The elements trying to grab power spreading the miseries of the people, can never be their friends, he added.

Government Denies Attacks on Indian Property

BK190951 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Bangladesh has denied reports by Indian media about attacks on Indian properties in the country. Giving the actual position, Deputy Foreign Minister Wajid Ali Khan Punny said unknown persons exploded a cracker on Monday in front of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka. It did not cause any damage. The High

Commission brought the incident to the notice of the Foreign Ministry who immediately arranged strict police vigilance on the High Commission and other places. The Indian high commissioner expressed his gratitude for the action (?to respective officials). A similar incident of explosions of crackers took place in front of the Air India and Indian Airlines office in Chittagong. The incident caused damage to a car, which did not belong to the Indian Airlines.

India

Iranian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

BK180330 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] The Iranian Foreign Minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, is in New Delhi on a 3-day official visit. He will have talks with the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr Eduardo Falerio, today. Mr Velayati is expected to discuss the current situation in the Gulf and the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] initiative to defuse tension.

The Ethiopian Foreign Minister, Mr Berhanu Bayeh, is also arriving in the capital today.

Meets Indian President

LD181401 Tehran IRNA in English 1225 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] New Delhi, Nov. 18, IRNA—Visiting Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met with Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman here Wednesday and discussed with him mutual relations and international issues.

In the meeting, Velayati briefed the Indian president on the latest Iraqi crimes against the Islamic Republic including its Tuesday's air raid on Bushehr nuclear power plant in southern Iran. Pointing to the old, historical ties between Iran and India, the foreign minister underlined the need to further expand bilateral ties.

In response, Venkataraman, called for promotion of Tehran-New Delhi ties in various fields particularly in the economic area, saying that exchange of visits by top level Indian and Iranian delegations would help consolidate mutual ties.

Velayati heading a top level politico-economic delegation arrived here Tuesday evening to exchange views with high ranking Indian officials. Also present in the meeting was Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic and International Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani.

Meanwhile, the foreign minister held talks with Indian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Eduardo Faleiro here today on Iran-India ties and mutual cooperation within the framework of the Non-Aligned Movement. Among other topics discussed by the two were expansion of mutual economic relations, the forthcoming session of the joint Irano-Indian economic commission in Tehran and other regional issues including the tension created by the U.S. in the Persian Gulf.

Confers With Faliero

LD182252 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—India's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Eduardo Faleiro announced his country's opposition against presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf, in the Indian capital Wednesday.

In a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, currently in New Delhi, the Indian official also stressed on the need for an active role by the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) including a common stance against threats and aggressions of the superpowers against NAM members.

Faleiro emphasising the significance of Tehran-New Delhi relations and the need for expansion of bilateral ties, announced that India was eagerly looking forward to the forthcoming joint commission of the two countries to be held in Tehran.

In response, the Iranian minister briefed the Indian official on Iran's firm stand in countering the U.S. military aggressions in the region. Said Velayati it is important for NAM to take a stand against the U.S. military presence in the region, especially Washington's assault on the Islamic Republic which, he said, is a key member of the Movement.

Adverting to the increase in Iran-India trade exchanges, Velayati stressed on expansion of the two countries' ties in view of the ample opportunities available.

In another development, Velayati conferred with India's Speaker of Lower House of Parliament (the Lok Sabha) Bal Ram Jakhar in New Delhi today.

The Indian speaker described meetings between Iranian and Indian officials as "very effective" for expansion of the two countries' ties.

In response, Velayati briefed the official on Iran's categorical position towards the Iraqi imposed war as well as presence of foreign fleets in the Persian Gulf.

Also discussed at the meeting was Tehran-New Delhi relations as well as important developments in the region.

Velayati arrived in the Indian capital Tuesday at the head of a political-economic delegation for a two-day visit.

Discusses Issues With Gandhi

NC190817 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Excerpt] According to a Central News Unit report, our foreign minister, Mr Velayati, who is in India on an official visit at the head of a high-ranking political-economic delegation, met with Indian Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi yesterday to discuss bilateral relations and international issues.

The report states that during this visit Velayati explained the Islamic Republic's stand in confronting U.S. provocations and interventions in the Persian Gulf and called for an active approach and stand by the Nonaligned Movements regarding these provocations.

During this meeting, Rajiv Gandhi discussed the significance of the historic ties between Iran and India and the need to further expand these relations. He also expressed the Indian Government's concern for the exacerbation of the tension in the Persian Gulf, as well as the foreign intervention in this region. [passage omitted]

Ends Visit, Departs

LD191023 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 19 Nov 87

[text] New Delhi, Nov. 19, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati wound up a two-day visit to India and talks with the country's officials including Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and left for Tehran Thursday morning.

The Iranian delegation was seen off by Indian officials and also the staff of the Iranian Embassy here.

PRC's Liu Shuqing Meets Prime Minister Gandhi

BK180316 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] The Chinese vice foreign minister, Mr Liu Shuqing, who headed the Chinese delegation at the [India-China border] talks, called on the prime minister. He told Mr Gandhi that the Chinese leadership attaches great importance to the development of friendly and good-neighborly relations with India.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi conveyed that India desires to renew and revitalize the relations between the two countries for mutual benefit.

Gandhi on Nuclear Nonproliferation Policy

BK180407 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] The prime minister has reiterated India's opposition to signing the discriminatory and partisan nuclear nonproliferation treaty. Mr Rajiv Gandhi also ruled out any bilateral arrangements with Pakistan on this issue. Addressing officers of the National Defense College in New Delhi yesterday, Mr Gandhi said nuclear weapons are positioned everywhere in the region. Therefore, a bilateral approach to the nuclear problem would only amount to a fairy tale. The prime minister emphasized that a piecemeal, zonal, or regional approach will not help tackle the nuclear issue which is essentially a global matter.

Outlining India's nuclear policy, Mr Gandhi took exception to comparing India with Pakistan on the nuclear program. He said India is the only country which proved its technological capacity to make a nuclear weapon and showed the will to refrain from making nuclear weapons. While our technical capacity has not been transferred into an active system, Pakistan is continuing its clandestine efforts to acquire nuclear weapons. Speaking at length on India and how it is opposed to the use of nuclear science for military purposes, he said Pakistan has an active nuclear weapon program. The prime minister spoke about India's efforts at promoting the peaceful coexistence as a guarantee for peace, thus rejecting the theory of balance of power.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi said talks between Indian and Chinese officials held in New Delhi since Sunday have progressed well. The talks ended yesterday. Mr Gandhi said progress has been made to find a solution to various problems. He, however, cautioned against expecting quick and easy solutions. Apart from the border issue, we are talking about cooperation in several areas, he said.

Referring to the growth of fundamentalism in the country, Mr Gandhi said this is a serious matter and can be solved only through the cooperation of the principal political parties. He called upon various parties to arrive at a consensus against the misuse of religious places.

Bhopal Strike Against Gas Leak Case Settlement

BK180340 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] In Bhopal, the district administration has made elaborate arrangements during the bundh [strike] today. The call for the bundh has been given by a number of political organizations to protest against any out-of-court settlement on lower amounts of compensation between India and the Union Carbide. The case for compensation for gas tragedy victims is to be taken up today in the district court of Bhopal to consider the proposed out-of-court settlement between the two bodies. All educational institutions in Bhopal, excluding those located in Bairagarh area, have been closed for the day.

No Out-of-Court Settlement

BK180815 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] No out-of-court settlement could be reached today between the Government of India and the Union Carbide on the payment of compensation to the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy. As reported earlier, the court

at its last sitting on the 30th of last month had directed both the parties to reach an out-of-court settlement in view of the urgency to provide immediate compensation to the suffering victims.

Police, Demonstrators Clash in Kashmir

BK180336 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 20 persons, including 15 policemen, were injured when a group of demonstrators clashed with the police in Srinagar yesterday. They were demanding a revocation of the recent government order on the shifting of government offices from the summer capital, Srinagar, to the winter capital, Jammu. Two vehicles were set on fire. Police had to burst tear gas shells and fire a few rounds in the air to bring the situation under control. The AIR correspondent reports that some parts of Srinagar city observed a bundh [strike] for the 2d day yesterday in protest against the government decision to rescind its earlier order regarding partial shifting of government offices.

Armed Terrorists Kill Five in Punjab

BK180344 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] In Punjab, five persons, including four members of a family, were shot dead by armed terrorists in two separate incidents last night. In Amritsar District, a Nihang [Sikh Temple Guard], Baldev Singh, and his wife and two minor sons were killed by two terrorists who fired at them in their house. In Bhatinda District, a salesman of a liquor shop, Mr Joginder Singh, was shot dead by terrorists in village Rama.

Iran

Mass Demonstrations Support War Council Call

LD191011 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA—Tens of thousands of members of Islamic associations of the government organisations marched in the streets of the capital, demonstrating their support for the call of the Supreme Council for War Support for public mobilization to end the Iraqi-imposed war.

The demonstrators, carrying portraits of Imam Khomeyni and Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, later gathered in front of the Majlis (parliamenet building) and emphasized the need for an all out support for war efforts.

They chanted slogans 'Death to the U.S.', 'Death to Israel', 'War, War, Till Victory', and 'Iran's Persian Gulf, Reagan's Grave Yard'.

The demonstrators issued a 6-point resolution in which they pledged allegiance to Imam Khomeyni and announced readiness to safeguard Islam by sacrificing their lives.

The resolution condemned presence of foreign forces in the region and decisions of the recently concluded Amman Arab summit.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks to Marchers

LD191321 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Members of the Islamic associations of ministries and government bodies and organizations today staged a march in support of the Supreme War Support Council's 10-point message and declaration of readiness to go to the front. The marchers assembled in front of the Majlis building and listened to remarks by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council. Here is a report.

In a speech at the gathering, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the participants and said: The events that are taking place in our country these days and the scenes that we are witnessing—be they demonstrations and manifestations on the part of manpower resources, exercises carried out by the mobilization forces ready for battle, or the unprecedented response by the people to the call for financial jihad—are truly telling and unexpected events to international observers. Even to ourselves, witnessing such scenes every day, the depth of the people's alertness and the extent of our people's selflessness, generosity, and steadfastness are manifest at an extremely high and prasieworthy level.

The Majlis speaker referred to the thoughts and perceptions of commentators and analysts on developments in the region who imagined that 7 years of war and 10 years of revolutionary events would tire the people and make them ripe for accepting peace. He said: On the basis of these analyses they hoped that the Iranian nation would not support the war. In their calculations, which stemmed from the murmur of peace and cease-fire which has been heard in Iran and the world through the United Nations over the past few months, they hoped that such murmurs and the outlook for peace would create a rift between the people and the war and their sacred defense. But what happened in Iran over the past 2 weeks eradicated all those perceptions and thoughts from the minds and utterances of international observers.

Referring to the people's extensive participation in the 4 November march and to their response to the Supreme War Support Council message, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council said: The positive response the people gave to the imam's telling statement will indeed have an important impact on the future of history and on the perception of international observers. We can be proud of ourselves today in terms of contemporary history.

The Majlis speaker referred to enemy plots and to various forms of threat, intimidation, and provocation against the Muslim and revolutionary Iranian nation. He said: All those things that were regarded as effective weapons within the context of international schemes proved to be the opposite and made the nation more serious. Instead of serving our Ba'thist-Zionist enemy, this exposed him to a serious danger—the extensive onslaught of volunteer forces. It proves that what the world takes into account in its calculations takes a different course in Iran and that the people are at an extremely high level in terms of intelligence, aptitude, appreciation of realities, and attention to developments.

They have put up with the war for 7 years, despite all its hardships. Today, they are heroically demonstrating their attitude toward and idea of the revolution in the way they do, and follow their leader in the way they do. This is an unprecedented development and trend in history. Indeed, the Americans are regretting their stupid move in the Persian Gulf. The Arab reactionaries, for the sake of demonstrating solidarity with Zionism and imperialism—something which was displayed at their recent conference—and those who were engaged in making threats, in acts of intimidation, and in provocation, are now regretting the situation that has developed in our country.

Our combatants, our Hezbollahi and mobilization forces, and those who have maintained the impetus of our sacred defensive battle are undoubtedly today more encouraged than before. If our men were merely resisting at the front until yesterday, they will, from now on, heroically renew their pledge to the objectives they have already identified and continue on the path to the end of the horizon they have envisioned in their sacred defense.

Musavi Describes Public Support for War Effort

LD181250 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi by unidentified radio correspondent following a cabinet meeting in Tehran on 18 November—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Musavi, in connection with the 10-point statement issued by the Supreme War Support Council, what will be the government's role in delivering blows against the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi forces?

[Musavi] As regards this statement, a number of steps have been taken. The statement placed a heavy duty upon the shoulders of the government, which is an effective member of the Supreme War Support Council. In the first place, we should emphasize that this statement is a clear response to all the moves and conspiracies aimed at saving Saddam from punishment. It is also an answer to the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf and a response to the unity of reactionaries in the region against the system of the Islamic Republic. I think that this could be the most positive response to demonstrate our determination to achieve our rights and to continue our holy defense. This is also felt and understood by our nation, and this is why we are witnessing the unprecedented and great wave of enthusiasm now sweeping the country.

Judging by what I have heard and the reports that I have received, there seems to be profound enthusiasm and a willingness by all sections of the nation to be present on the battlefront, to help the fronts, and to participate in the financial crusade. The government will make use of all its capabilities in this regard, all of its financial, economic, fiscal facilities and equipment, and so forth. All that I can say is that these are minor activities, financial activities; they are not constructive activities. [sentence as heard].

All of these activities [words indistinct] are, in a way, related to the issue of war. The separation between the issues of the fronts and those behind the lines no longer exists. Also, with the financial jihad and the presence of the faithful and revolutionary forces at the fronts, this separation will be eliminated and the fronts and the area behind the lines will be linked together. [Words indistinct] in a number of circulars and instructions, in the discussions which we have had with various ministries, and the resolutions of the Supreme War Support Council, are all in the service of this goal, to ensure that this move may continue.

Once again I refer to the people themselves, because this is a movement by the people. During the past few days, with the opening of account No 55 in the Bank Melli, we have been informed that a great movement has started among all the religious and Islamic groups to contribute to this account. This reveals a spirituality, side by side with the great maneuvers which started like a chain and which will be staged throughout the country. Let us also refer to the fact that during the next week, the next 10 days, we will regularly see the presence of the people and the maneuvers by the people, as well as their regular dispatch to the fronts. This by itself is a response, as well as keeping the fronts active, and our tireless forces will be present at the fronts. This will also convey to the cities the spirit which exists at the fronts.

Pakistani Clergymen Back War Council Directive

NC191123 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Pakistani clergymen and scholars of the Qom Theological Seminary have issued a statement saying: We, the Pakistani Ja'fari scholars and clergymen of the Qom Theological Seminary and members of the Ja'fari sect, express our support for the 10-point directive issued by the Supreme War Support Council and express our readiness to fight to the last, side by side with the combatants of Islam, in defense of dear Islam.

In their statement, the clergymen and scholars also condemned the Arab summit in Amman and warned the Muslims of the world against this new U.S. plot.

Musavi Assails U.S. Gulf Presence, Arab Summit

LD191115 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] At this morning's session of the government political council, the latest domestic and regional political developments were reviewed. Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi stated at the end of the session that despite the current silence in terms of news reports, the United States is continually reinforcing its aggressive presence in the region. We must not allow this presence to be forgotten, giving America the opportunity to strengthen its position in the region. Our confrontation with its colonialist interference is a struggle that will continue until the Americans are ousted from the Persian Gulf. Noting the importance of the statement issued by the Supreme War Support Council, the prime minister added: The day the Americans achieve security in the region is the day we should feel endangered.

Regarding the recent Arab summit session's positions against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the prime minister said: The declaration of new war conditions in the country is the best possible answer to hostile and helpless moves by the region's reactionaries. The prime minister added: After the treacheries perpetrated by that session against Palestinian aspirations all those who are struggling for the liberation of Jerusalem realized that the Muslims' first qiblah can be liberated only through the power of Islam.

UN Envoy: Nation Will Not Play Into U.S. Hands

LD190957 Tehran IRNA in English 0801 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] London, Nov. 19, IRNA—The Islamic Republic's ambassador to the United Nations says that Iran is not going to play into the hands of the U.S. and be diverted from Iraqi aggression but equally will not allow American hostilities to go unanswered.

Dr. Seyed Rajaie-Khorassani in an interview with *Cresent* international magazine said the Western armadas had come to support Iraq under the "guise of keeping the Persian Gulf open" and had become a "party to the conflict" by starting the direct shooting war.

"It is in favour of Saddam's regime," he said "for the U.S. to somehow involve us in another conflict (and) because of this, the U.S. may carry out further provocative acts to divert our attention from the Iraqi agression and to reduce our military pressure against Iraq."

The ambassador pointed out that Iran had already showed a great deal of self-restraint and was not going to be foiled by the U.S., but warned that Iran would have "no option but to confront them effectively" if the U.S. continued their provocations.

"We have given sufficient warning to the U.S.," he said and "exhausted all logical and rational communications to them, but if the conflict still occurs, then the blame must rest with the U.S. Administration."

Dr Khorassani did not believe that the American forces in the Persian Gulf were in very good shape and, having many problems and limitations, it would "not be easy for them to embroil themselves in a long-term conflict," in which they "know they will be defeated."

He felt that there was a definite link between the stock market crash and what the U.S. were up to in the Persian Gulf, which undoubtedly he thought had something to do with the resignation of Caspar Weinberger as the U.S. defence secretary.

"U.S. policies in the Persian Gulf have finally broken the back of the secretary of defence," the ambassador said and his departure reveals some of the "untold controversies and problems which exist inside Reagan's administration."

"Who would have imagined that his own regime would collapse just because of what he wanted to do in the Persian Gulf," he remarked, noting that it had been Weinberger himself who had said the U.S. would not withdraw until there was a change of government in Iran.

He judged that the defence secretary's dismissal was a positive sign as those that forced him out had surely shown "greater prudence and more accurate and objective understanding of the Persian Gulf situation as a whole and of the long-term U.S. policies in that part of the world" by not endorsing Weinberger's policies.

Dr Khorassani was not very optimistic about the U.N. diplomatic moves to end the war but said that as long as it was prepared to find a fair solution and satisfy Iran's legitimate demands that the aggressor should be punished, Iran would be willing to co-operate.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Confers With Envoy to Syria

LD190719 Tehran IRNA in English 0712 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to Syria Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hassan Akhtari met with Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Wednesday afternoon.

During the meeting, Akhtari reported on the activities of the Iranian Embassy and informed the Majlis speaker of the latest developments in strengthening Tehran-Damascus relations.

Commentary Terms Egypt 'Vassal of Zionists'

NC182104 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Station political commentary]

[Text] The Egyptian regime is marking the 10th anniversary of the shameful visit by the traitor Al-Sadat to occupied Palestine. With due pomp, the regime has dispatched a former prime minister, Mustafa Khalil, who served under Al-Sadat, to attend the festivities held by the Zionist entity on this occasion. Mubarak's own festivities on this occasion will be attended by the man who so heartily encouraged Al-Sadat to embark on his treasonable visit; namely, Romanian President Ceausescu, who is expected in Cairo in a few days' time.

The commemoration of the visit of shame by the Egyptian regime proves beyond doubt that Mubarak is faithful to the close ties with the Zionist enemy and that he is steering along the course of submission and treason charted by Al- Sadat. This is the reason why an event which brought so much shame to Egypt is being remembered with joy.

Gone is the time when Egypt used to celebrate such immortal days as those of 'Urabi [national Egyptian 19th century leader] and Suez, the pinnacle of Egyptian heroism and sacrifice. Ruled by allies of the Zionists, Egypt is now celebrating the day of shame which will leave a lasting mark on the forehead of the servile.

The tyrants wanted everything that is good in Egypt's history to be buried under images of Al-Sadat's treasonable visit to the occupied land and his subsequent conclusion of the Camp David accords. They wanted to disfigure the Islamic, revolutionary, and proud face of Egypt, to distort the country's reputation, and to tarnish its history of struggle. Before long, however, the Egyptians rose up to respond to the situation and restore dignity to their Islamic country. Before long, Al-Sadat took refuge under the chairs of the reviewing stand, seeking shelter from Al-Islambuli's bullets, but it was too late. Before long, the Egyptian uprising was under way and mosques turned into fortresses of revolution and rejection.

In Egypt's streets there is now a battle of wills between those who have chosen dignity and pride for Egypt and those who want Egypt to remain a mere vassal of the Zionists. The nation has risen and is making news. It is telling the world that Egypt is not Mubarak's Egypt, that it is not Camp David, and that Zionist dominion is nothing more than a passing cloud in Egypt's skies.

A regime of treason is today celebrating shame, but the people are celebrating the day when they punished Al-Sadat for his treason, in retaliation. Al-Sadat paid for his visit; all traitors will pay a similar price.

No wonder, then, that such reactionary regimes as those of Saddam, Al Sa'ud, and Al-Sabah would consider such shame anything but repulsive. No wonder that so many hands are being extended to shake the hands of servility, of those who clasped hands with Begin, Shamir, and Peres. No wonder, such people are all cut out of the same cloth of agentry. As one they would speak for treason and as one they would stab the Arab people in the back.

Tehran: DRA-Paid Assassins Arrested

LD182212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] IRNA reports that thanks to the constant efforts of the Ministry of Intelligence, and with the cooperation of the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Islamic Revolution Committee of Khorasan Province, the murderers of martyr Safiollah Afzali and his entourage have been arrested.

Martyr Afzali, who was one of the influential and committed commanders of the Afghan mujahidin, was the victim of an assassination plot planned by the Afghan regime. He was martyred on 7 July 1987.

According to this report, the arrested have confessed that the security heads of the Kabul regime paid them 40 million rials to carry out this crime.

Reportage on Bushehr Nuclear Plant Bombings

3d Bombing Announced

LD191043 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] At 1015 today the Iraqi Zionist regime's aircraft bombed the Bushehr nuclear power station for the third time over the past 3 days. The enemy air raid caused some damage to the power station, but no one was hurt.

IAEA Assistance Sought

AU181232 Paris AFP in English 1129 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Vienna, Nov 18 (AFP)—Iran has requested assistance from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) following Iraq's bombing raid Tuesday on the Bushehr nuclear power plant in southern Iran, an IAEA spokesman said Wednesday.

He said Iran requested two IAEA missions, one to inspect equipment and the other to check for radiation, following the raid in which 10 people were reported killed. No decision had yet been taken on the Iranian request, the spokesman said.

The Bushehr plant consists of two reactors of 1,200 megawatts each. The plant was 80 per cent completed when construction by the West German firm Kraftwerk Union (KWU) was halted in 1979 after the fall of the shah of Iran, and has never come on stream.

In Washington Tuesday U.S. experts ruled out any possibility of a Chernobyl-type radiation disaster at Bushehr. Dan Butler, a Department of Energy spokesman, said: "There is no reactor in Iran. I've checked with three sources."

Gary Milhollin, a former Pentagon consultant on nuclear proliferation now with the University of Wisconsin, said Iran's two reactors in Bushehr were "not complete, so they do not have any high level radioactive material in them."

AEO Head Warns of Radioactivity

LD181744 Tehran IRNA in English 1656 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Bushehr, Nov 18, IRNA—Head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (AEO) Reza Amrollahi today warned that the Iraqi bombed Bushehr nuclear power plant contained nuclear material. He held the Baghdad regime responsible for consequences of any radioactive leak.

Amrollahi, here to inspect damage to the nuclear plant following Tuesday's two Iraqi air raids, warned that if the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) fails to take a decisive measure to prevent the Baghdad regime from repeating such crimes, all IAEA resolutions will be under question.

The Iraqi regime, by attacking the nuclear plant, has not only violated all international regulations but has also proved it has scant respect for such obligations despite being a signatory of three IAEA resolutions, he said.

The AEO head, who is also deputy prime minister, refuted an Iraqi claim that its warplanes had bombed a petrochemical complex in Bushehr, saying that Iran does not have even a single soap manufacturing factory in Bushehr let alone a petrochemical plant.

He said the IAEA is well aware of the existence of nuclear material at Bushehr nuclear plant.

Bushehr Attack Protested

LD191024 Tehran IRNA in English 0749 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Bonn, Nov. 19, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Khalil Musavi Wednesday called on the agency to condemn Iraq's inhuman attack on the Bushehr nuclear plant.

Speaking at a press conference here, Musavi said the attack was in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and IAEA resolutions, and urged the organisations to condemn Iraq.

He reminded that any failure to halt these attacks would cause unpredictable consequences and embolden the aggressor to further ignore international conventions and attack nuclear installations which are completely non-military.

Condolences Conveyed to FRG

LD181331 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] During a meeting last night with the FRG deputy foreign minister, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in West Germany described the recent Iraqi attacks on the Bushehr nuclear plant, which was under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency and which, according to international regulations, should have been immune from air attacks. He asked the deputy foreign minister to convey his condolences to the family of Mr Sudhoff [as heard], who was killed during the Iraqi attacks on the nuclear plant in Bushehr.

The FRG deputy foreign minister thanked the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran and expressed the reciprocal condolences of the FRG Government to the families of the Iranian martyrs of this savage attack. He asserted: The Iraqi attack was another step in expanding the scope of the war. These Iraqi actions endanger the achievement of peace.

Further Combat Operations Against Iraq

Communique No 3,024

LD181600 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov 18, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters pounded Iraqi military and economic centers in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province as well as enemy supply axes 200 kms. inside northern Iraq in two sorties today inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. All planes returned safely to bases after the operations, the 3024th Joint Staff Communique reported here today.

The communique said Iraq's Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah platforms came under heavy artillery fire of the Iranian naval forces Tuesday as a result of which considerable losses were inflicted on the platforms' installations. An enemy gunboat was also checked near Al-'Amayah platform.

Iranian Navy also intercepted and searched six cargo ships and tankers in the Hormuz Strait Tuesday, but allowed them to continue voyage, since no Iraqi-bound cargo turned up on board.

Long-range artillery fire of the Muslim forces strongly cannonaded Iraqi positions, strongholds and armoured and motorized columns throughout the war fronts Tuesday, halting or disrupting enemy activities on each zone. Major blows were dealt on the enemy in Qasr-e Shirin, Zobeydeh and Zeydi regions.

In 'Eyn-Khvosh operational theater, Iraqi tanks and armoured pieces were targeted by Iranian combatants sustaining some casualties and losses. An Iraqi motorized column was also dispersed in Qasr-e Shirin by Iranian combatants who halted Iraqi relocation and engineering activities in east of Basra area and on Zobeydeh-Tib axis.

At least 10 gun emplacements and two vehicles of Iraqi troops were destroyed and some enemy soldiers were killed as their perimeters were rained [as received] by Iranian Gendarmerie forces Tuesday, the communique concluded.

Iraqi Warplane Shot Down

LD181631 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA—An Iraqi warplane was shot down by anti-aircraft fire of the Islamic Republic's combatants in Bakhtaran region (western Iran) Wednesday.

Announcing the above here this evening, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces added that the enemy plane was downed at 16:57 hours local time (13:27 GMT).

Kurds Carry Out Ambush Operations

LD181852 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] A group of Muslim Iraqi Kurdish Peshmergas from the Al-Sulaymaniyah branch carried out a range of ambush operations in the Deleh Jitu-Shanah Dari and Deleh Jitu-Bardal axes in coordination with the "Zafar-3" operations. They killed at least 20 Iraqi troops, including a Ba'thist colonel, and wounded several others.

According to a Ramadan headquarters report on the matter, the Muslim Kurdish Peshmergas set ablaze five light and heavy enemy vehicles and captured large quantities of ammunition and light and medium-heavy weapons during these operations. A number of Iraqi Kurdish jash [Kurdish word meaning quislings] were also taken prisoner by the Peshmergas.

'Aqrah Garrison Bombed

LD190936 Tehran IRNA in English 0928 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA—Military installations of 'Aqrah garrison near Iraqi Province of Dahuk was heavily bombed by Iranian jet fighters at 09:00 hours local time (05:30 hours GMT) today. Heavy casualties and damage were inflicted on the garrison.

The attack was in retaliation for Iraqi bombardment of Malek village in Bakhtaran Province, western Iran Wednesday during which three civilians were wounded.

Hospital Bombing Denied

LD191034 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA—Iran Thursday categorically denied claims of the Baghdad regime alleging that the Iranian war planes bombed a hospital in Dahuk Province, northwestern Iraq, Wednesday.

A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) said that contrary to Iraqi allegations, Iranian Air Force pilots carried out no mission over Dahuk and stated that the Iranian war planes only bombed Iraqi forces concentrations in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province.

Iranian fighter planes bombed military installations and supply axis of enemy forces in Al-Sulaymaniyah, 200 kms deep inside the Iraqi territory Wednesday, the spokesman added.

He stressed that by resorting to such allegations, the Iraqi regime is paving the way for committing fresh crimes against people of Iran.

Reprisal Bombing Raids Announced

LD191248 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced: In response to the criminal acts of the Zionist enemy over the last several days in which it bombed rural and civilian regions of our country, pilots of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran at 0805, 0900, and 1037 hours today performed three separate missions outside the country's borders during which they severely bombed military installations of the garrison in 'Aqrah, near the Iraqi Province of Dahuk as well as troop concentrations of the Iraqi forces in the (Sharahani) operational zone. They inflicted heavy casualties and damages on the Saddamites.

Majlis Elections To Be Held 8 April

LD190716 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Esfahan, Nov 19, IRNA—Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said here Wednesday that the third Majlis (parliament) elections will be held on April 8, 1988.

Speaking at a press conference, Mohtashemi added that bi-elections for the Assembly of Experts would be held simultaneously with the Majlis elections.

He said the Council of Guardians has announced its agreement with the elections therefore, the minister noted, candidates can enroll as of March.

On political activities of parties, Mohtashemi said the law for their legal activities will be enforced at an opportune time, noting that the law is under investigation.

He expressed hope the third elections would be run in the best possible manner and no violation would be seen.

Referring to security measures on border areas, the interior minister said smugglers should be decisively confronted in eastern borders. He stressed that with the approval of a new plan by the security council of the country, the Islamic revolution's committees will take fundamental measures to this end.

Mohtashemi expressed hope that with the implementation of the new plan, illegal traffic of narcotics to the country and its distribution would be halted.

On western borders and preventing infiltration of Iraqi-backed splinter groups, the minister said it needed closure of borders which task he said has been successfully carried out in West Azarbayjan Province.

Steps have been taken so far in Kordestan in this connection, Mohtashemi noted, adding that through coordination of committee members in checking entrance and exit gates of the cities, positive results will be achieved in maintaining security.

On the 10-point message of the Supreme War Support Council on people's overall participation in the war effort, Mohtashemi said enthusiastic response of all masses to the call thwarted the propaganda ploy of news imperialism that Iran had yielded to diplomatic means and peace negotiations.

Muslim revolutionary people of Iran will soon prove to the world the vunerability of the Baghdad rulers and the humiliating withdrawal of the U.S. forces from the Persian Gulf, he concluded.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Releases 9 Captured Indian Soldiers

BK191402 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1400 GMT 19 Nov 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 19 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Nine of eighteen members of the Indian peace keeping force (IPKF) who were earlier captured by the LTTE were released this evening, official sources told *Lanka Puwath*. They said that the released soldiers had reached the Palaly military base in Jaffna about 1745 hours (local time) [1215 GMT]. The sources said the release of the remaining nine soldiers is expected later in the night.

LTTE Mounts Attacks in Trincomalee Area

BK190907 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0853 GMT 19 Nov 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 19 (*Lanka Puwath*)—The LTTE attacked the L.V. 2 colony at Serunuwara, in the Trincomalee District in eastern Sri Lanka with rocket propelled grenades and machine guns last Monday and damaged the police post and four houses. Official sources told *Lanka Puwath* that the LTTE also burnt a car, a tractor and a cart. They robbed two guns from home guards.

The sources said that the LTTE had attacked a refugee camp at the Muslim Maha Vidyalaya in Muttur, also in the Trincomalee District at 2100 hours (local time) last Wednesday, yesterday, and opened fire injuring one person.

A report from China Bay in the Trincomalee District states that armed terrorists had broken into the home of the younger brother of former deputy minister of information and broadcasting, A. L. Abdul Majeed who was shot dead by LTTE terrorists at his home in Kinniyai also in the Trincomalee District last week, and had robbed a typewriter and a television set.

A police patrol was attacked by LTTE terrorists at 0700 hours (local time) yesterday at Maha Oya in the Ampara District. Three constables received minor injuries.

A report from Vavuniya states that eight armed LTTE terrorists had robbed a lorry.

2 Killed in Bombing Near Colombo 19 Nov

BK191049 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1039 GMT 19 Nov 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 19 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Two persons were killed and two injured in a bomb blast at Malabe in the Talangama police area, 15 kilometers from Colombo this afternoon. The superintendent of police Nugegoda H B Piyasena told *Lanka Puwath* that an old man who had taken the bomb to a firm of funeral undertakers who also operated a florist shop in the same premises at Malabe was injured. A woman bystander was also injured.

Mr Piyasena said that the motive for the bomb explosion was gang rivalry. He said that some enemies of the funeral undertaker's son had allegedly contracted with a gang of criminals to have him killed. The old man had been given the bomb wrapped as a parcel to be taken and handed to the intended victim.

The two men who died in the explosion was described by superintendent of police Nugegoda as workers in the establishment.

7 'Hardcore' JVP Members Arrested 18 Nov

BK191155 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1124 GMT 19 Nov 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 19 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Seven hardcore members of the proscribed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) were arrested yesterday. Police told *Lanka Puwath* that 4 were taken into custody at Wadduwa, one at Kalutara and 2 from Piliyandala. Police sources also said that unidentified persons had robbed guns from license holders in Tissamaharama (1) Weraketiya (1) Hanbantota (1) and Anuradhapura (1).

Ruling Party Expels 2 Parliament Members

BK190625 Hong Kong AFP in English 0521 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Colombo, Nov 19 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's ruling party has expelled two members of Parliament for disobeying an order to vote for a bill giving greater autonomy to the island's Tamil minority, a state-owned newspaper reported . A United National Party (UNP) committee headed by President Junius Jayewardene decided to expel the MP's who abstained from voting on the controversial Tamil legislation, the *Daily News* said.

The dissident MP's represent electorates in the south of the island where an outlawed political party has threatened government MP's with death if they supported the new legislation in line with a new Delhi-backed peace plan.

The bill which seeks to set up provincial councils in Tamil-dominated areas has attracted opposition from Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese and the island's dominant Tamil militant group.

A senior Cabinet minister resigned over the issue but Mr Jayewardene has vowed to press ahead with the peace accord he signed with Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi on July 29.

TULF Rejects Government Proposals

BK170957 Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Nov 87 p 5

[Text] Madras, Nov 1 (UNI)—The moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) has rejected the proposals contained in the 13th amendment to the Constitution and the provincial councils bill presented to Parliament by the Sri Lankan Government recently and sought an appointment with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to clarify its position.

In a joint letter addressed to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi two days ago, and made available to the press today, TULF leaders Appapillai Amirthalingam, M Sivasithamparam and R Sampanthan said "these proposals do not meet the aspirations of the Tamils nor in any way, commensurate with the loss of life, sufferings and privations suffered by the Tamil people".

The TULF regretted that it would not recommend the contents of these bills to the Tamil people as being satisfactory, just, and durable. The TULF leaders also expressed deep anguish at the tragic turn of events in Jaffna during the past fortnight. The TULF said the introduction of the bill without making a copy available to India in advance, was not merely a cavalier treatment of India but a clear breach of Para 2.15 of the Indo-Sri Lankan accord which states inter alia that residual matters should be resolved between India and Sri Lanka. The bills were certainly not the result of any such resolution, they said.

The two bills were gazetted without being made available to India, contrary to the assurance given by President J R Jayewardene to the TULF delegation which met him at Colombo on 29 September. The TULF also recalled the assurance given by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi before his departure to Colombo to sign the accord that a team of constitutional experts from India and Sri Lanka would draft the necessary legislation.

The TULF charged that the provisions of the bills have made the political arrrangement, of importance to Tamils, on a single administrative unit for north and eastern provinces a farce. The setting up of a single unit is now sought to be done by an executive act of the President, in the form of a mere proclamation, which can always be revoked, and this too has to depend on the President being satisfied on a number of imponderables.

It was the Tamils' expectation that a single administrative unit of the north and eastern provinces, would be firmly created by an adequate constitutional provision. The provision in Section 154A (3) of the 13th amendment, however, is of a dubious nature. This could be interpreted to mean that a perpetual power is vested in Parliament to legislate on these all important matters. The resulting position would be that a single administrative unit of the northern and eastern provinces, even when finally established would be an impermanent arrangement, it said.

The TULF said the reference to state land continuing to be vested in the Republic and the power of disposition by the President, the stipulation that the alienation and disposition of state land within a province to any citizen or organisation shall be by the President, and the failure to properly formulate the principle of the cumulative entitlement of the Tamil speaking people in schemes under the Mahaweli project in the eastern province were unacceptable to it.

These provisions were clearly directed towards reducing the provincial councils to the position of a non-entity in respect of state land even though land is a devolved subject. The provisions also enabled the central government to have a dominant power over state land. Ample scope was also retained for the continued colonisation of the northern and eastern provinces with members of the majority community, it alleged. Such a position was completely contrary to the discussions held with TULF, and totally different from the Indian pattern, it added.

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